



# Conservation Facts Handbook

A Resource for Those Who Speak and Write About  
the Missouri Department of Conservation



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# Fast Facts

## Important Facts to Know

- *Conservation pays its way in Missouri.* The amount of state sales tax revenue generated from fish and wildlife recreation and the forest products industry is about the same as the sales tax revenue received by MDC from the Conservation Sales Tax.
- The Department's budget is less than 1% of the total State budget.
- There are 12.5 million hunters, 30 million anglers, and 71.1 million wildlife watchers in the United States.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2006, 2.5 million residents and nonresidents, aged 16 years and older, participated in fishing, hunting, or wildlife-associated recreation in Missouri.<sup>1</sup>
- There are more than 1.1 million anglers, 608,000 hunters, and 2.2 million wildlife watchers in Missouri.<sup>1</sup>
- Missouri is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for number of resident hunters and 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation for number of resident anglers.<sup>1</sup>
- Over 1/4 of tourism dollars in Missouri are spent on fish, forest, and wildlife recreation.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Most Missourians (93%) report they are interested in Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife.<sup>3</sup>
- 93% of land in Missouri is privately owned; the Department owns or manages less than 2% of the land in Missouri.

<sup>1</sup> 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

<sup>2</sup> Missouri Department of Economic Development

<sup>3</sup> 2003 Conservation Opinion Survey conducted by the University of Missouri

## Significant Accomplishments of the Department

1. Restoring a wide variety of plants, animals, and habitats in Missouri. Many of these were nearly eliminated from the state.
2. Providing management on nearly one million acres for fish, forest, and wildlife habitat and fishing, hunting, and wildlife-related recreation opportunities to over 2.5 million participants each year.
3. Providing fish stocking and management on 924 lakes and 40 stream management areas each year for public fishing.
4. Training a total of over one million individuals in hunter safety.
5. Restoring the health of Missouri's forests by promoting stewardship, preventing uncontrolled burning, and distributing 4.7 million tree seedlings each year.
6. Providing a statewide system of interpretive centers and facilities where over one million visitors experience nature each year.
7. Providing information, educational programs, and materials to students, adults, and schools to sustain and nourish Missourians' connection to nature and the outdoors.
8. Providing technical and financial assistance to individuals, private landowners, partners, communities, and counties for habitat management practices that benefit fish, forest, and wildlife resources.
9. Providing conservation law enforcement in every county in Missouri.
10. Enhancing the economy of communities and counties through fire department training and assistance, payments on conservation lands and forest lands in lieu of property taxes, and payments to assist with road maintenance. Since 1980, more than \$12 million has been paid to Missouri counties in lieu of taxes.



## Did You Know?

- To find local MDC contacts- (Conservation agent, fisheries management biologist, forester, natural history biologist, private land conservationist, education consultant or outdoor skills specialist) go to [www.mdc.mo.gov/contact](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/contact)
- Landowners with ponds that meet certain requirements can have their ponds stocked with fish for free through the Private Pond Stocking Program. Landowners who have their pond stocked by MDC are not required to allow fishing by the general public, but anglers on private ponds that have been stocked with MDC fish must follow the fishing regulations listed in *The Wildlife Code*. [www.mdc.mo.gov/fish/stock](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/fish/stock)
- All elementary teachers can order free conservation educational materials from the public Web site. [www.mdc.mo.gov/teacher/classroom.htm](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/teacher/classroom.htm)
- *The Wildlife Code* has a number of permit privileges for landowners, youth, those over 65, members of the armed forces, and those with disabilities.
- MDC receives none of the revenue generated from enforcement violations; the revenue goes to the school system in the county in which the offense occurs. Any court costs stay with the county government.
- Deer and turkey harvest data for each county in Missouri can be found on the public Web site. This data comes from the Telecheck system, and is updated 6 times an hour during hunting season. [www.mdc.mo.gov/cgi-bin/maps/deerturkey/main.cgi](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/cgi-bin/maps/deerturkey/main.cgi)
- The first issue of the Missouri Conservationist was distributed on July 1, 1938. The first page described it as an “experiment.” The first issue ran 10,000 copies, and a subscription cost 25 cents/year. Now, over 500,000 Missouri households receive the magazine for free, and there are nearly 14,000 out-of-state and 185 out-of-country subscriptions (\$7/year and \$10/year, respectively).
- In Missouri, there are 67 state endangered species; 1,039 Missouri Species of Conservation Concern; 18 federally endangered species; 12 federally threatened species, and 2 species with federally designated critical habitat (Niangua darter and Indiana bat).



## Vision & Mission Statements

### Department Mission

- To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state.
- To serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities.
- And to provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about fish, forest, and wildlife resources.

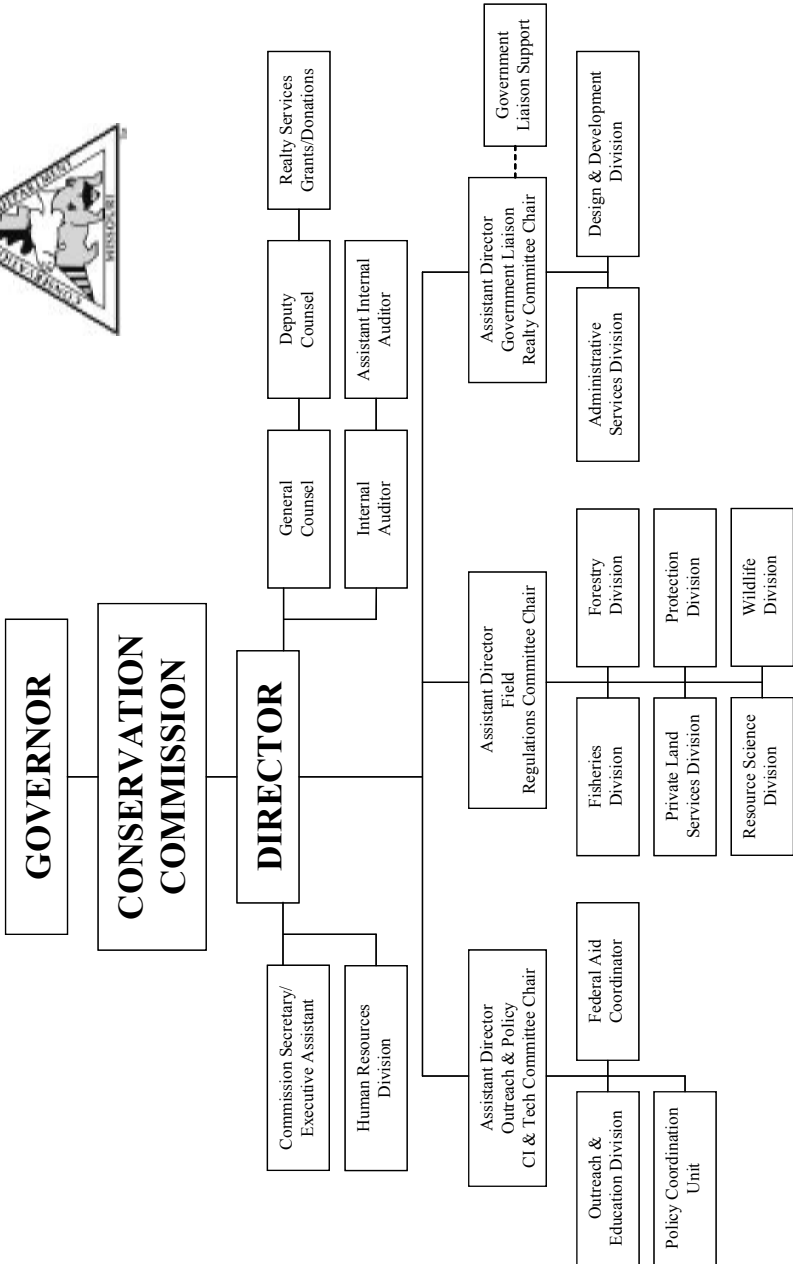
### Our Vision

- To have healthy, sustainable plant and animal communities throughout the state of Missouri for future generations to use and enjoy, and to have fish, forest, and wildlife resources in appreciably better condition tomorrow than they are today.
- To have all Missourians understand the relationship and value of plant and animal communities to our social and economic well-being.
- To have citizens and government agencies work together to protect, sustain, enhance, restore, or create sustainable plant and animal communities of local, state, and national significance.

## What We Believe

- *Excellent public service is what we will provide.* We are committed to providing excellent public service in a manner that benefits the fish, forests, wildlife, and people of Missouri. We will be courteous, responsive, and flexible in all of our actions. We will set the example we want others to follow as we responsibly manage the fish, forests, wildlife, lands, and habitats under our stewardship.
- *All citizens are important; we value their trust and their point of view.* All Missouri citizens deserve respect. Our job is to listen, understand, and personally deliver programs and services that will benefit each Missourian.
- *Missourians are our partners to achieve conservation success.* We will work together with Missourians, communities, and organizations in our conservation efforts and we will encourage everyone to be active conservationists.
- *Employees are the Department's most important resource.* All employees deserve a safe, high quality work environment that promotes opportunities for professional and personal growth, teamwork, and individual respect. We will empower employees to make timely and innovative decisions. We will encourage diversity and be open to new ideas. We will create an enjoyable workplace because we have a passion to help others and we believe in our conservation mission.
- *Fairness, objectivity, sound science, integrity and accountability will guide our actions.* Our decisions and behavior will be based on fairness, objectivity, and the best scientific information. We will act with the highest degree of integrity and ethical consideration, expecting the best of ourselves and one another. We will be accountable to the citizens of Missouri to do what we say.

# MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



## The Next Generation of Conservation Strategic Plan

The Next Generation of Conservation is the Department's sixth and most current strategic plan for the future. The Conservation Commission gave their final approval of the plan in the April 2006 Commission meeting. The plan was developed over an 18-month period, and incorporates both professional expertise and public opinion. The overarching goal of the strategic plan is to improve Missouri's resources so that they are in "appreciably better condition tomorrow than they are today." Improvements are to come through emphasizing partnerships, with organizations, agencies, and with the citizens of Missouri.

### **The nine goal categories of the Next Generation of Conservation**

- Conserving Plants, Animals, and Their Habitats
- Protecting Clean and Healthy Waters
- Promoting Healthy Trees and Forests
- Preserving Missouri's Outdoor Recreation Heritage
- Teaching Missourians about Fish, Forest, and Wildlife Resources
- Supporting Conservation in Our Communities
- Helping Private Landowners Advance Conservation
- Serving Nature and You on Conservation Areas
- Accounting for Department Operations

The entire strategic plan is detailed on the MDC Web site:  
[www.mdc.mo.gov/about/next\\_gen](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/about/next_gen)

# Awards

Citizens or employees of conservation-related agencies who have performed outstanding acts or whose dedicated service over an extended time have produced major progress in fisheries, forestry, or wildlife conservation in Missouri can be nominated for the Master Conservationist Award or the Conservation Hall of Fame. Anyone can submit a nomination to the Director's office, which should include a statement describing the nominee's accomplishments and a brief biography.

## Master Conservationist Award

- Is the Conservation Commission's highest honor, recognizing outstanding living or deceased individuals.
- The Commission established the award in 1941 to recognize substantial and lasting contributions to fisheries, forestry, or wildlife conservation.
- A total of 55 people have received this award as of 2008.

## Induction into the Conservation Hall of Fame

- Induction occurs posthumously.
- A committee of two current Department employees, two retired Department employees, and the president of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, who are appointed by the Department Director, screens nominees. The committee meets twice a year and sends recommendations for Hall of Fame inductees to the Conservation Commission for approval. Some years there are none.
- A total of 31 people have received this honor as of 2008.
- Conservation Commissioners and Directors are not eligible for the Conservation Hall of Fame, but can be given the Master Conservationist award.

# Budgets and Finances

## Budgets

### Budget of the State of Missouri- Fiscal Year 2007

Total 2007 State Budget.....\$21,239,817,527

Health & Social Services..... 35.8%

Education..... 28.4%

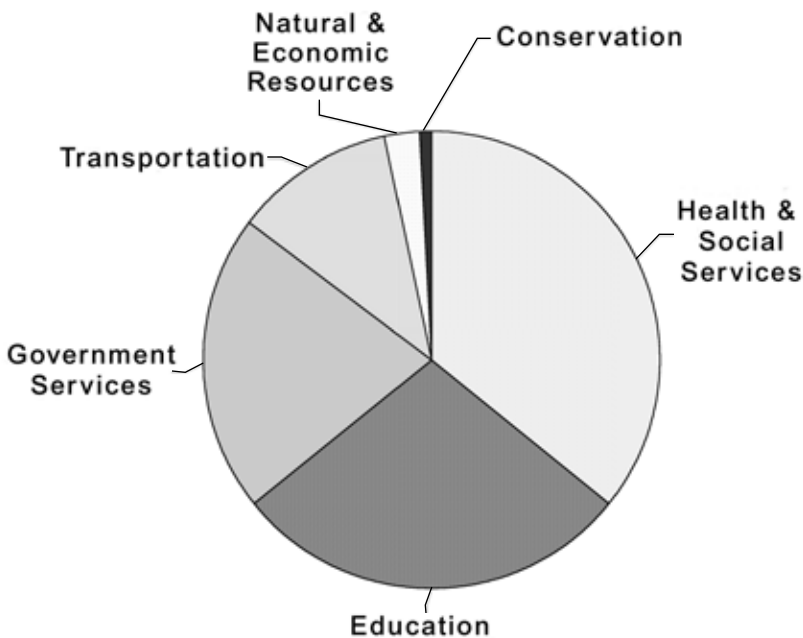
Government Services ..... 21.2%

Transportation..... 11.2%

Natural & Economic Resources ..... 2.7%

**Conservation ..... 0.7%**

*MDC represents less than 1% of the total state budget.*



## Budget of the Department- Fiscal Year 2007

### *Receipts*

Conservation Sales Tax.....	\$103,332,575 (60%)
Permit Sales .....	\$30,953,155 (18%)
Federal Reimbursements .....	\$23,210,639 (13.5%)
Sales and Rentals.....	\$8,947,515 (5%)
Other Sources .....	\$3,965,239 (2%)
Interest.....	\$1,267,398 (0.7%)
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$171,676,521</b>

### *Disbursements*

County Assistance Payments.....	0.85%
Capital Improvements.....	13.86%
Fisheries.....	7.23%
Forestry .....	9.35%
Wildlife.....	9.76%
Outreach & Education.....	9.34%
Private Land Services.....	5.33%
Protection .....	8.61%
Resource Science.....	7.33%
Regional Public Contact Offices .....	2.00%
Administrative Services & Human Resources .....	17.39%
Design & Development.....	7.40%
Administration .....	1.55%

Annual reports of the previous fiscal year's budgets are published in January issues of the Missouri Conservationist. Archived issues can be found here: [www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag/archive](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag/archive)



# Sales Tax

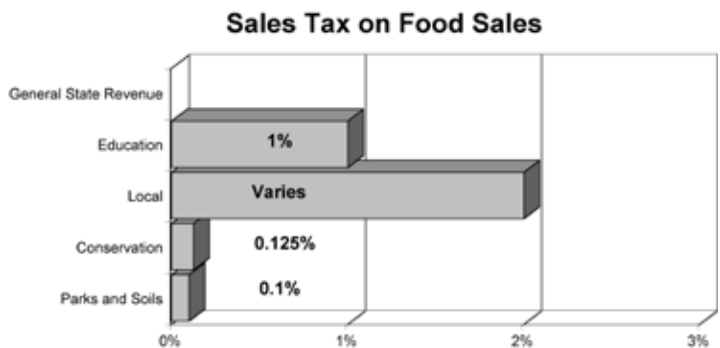
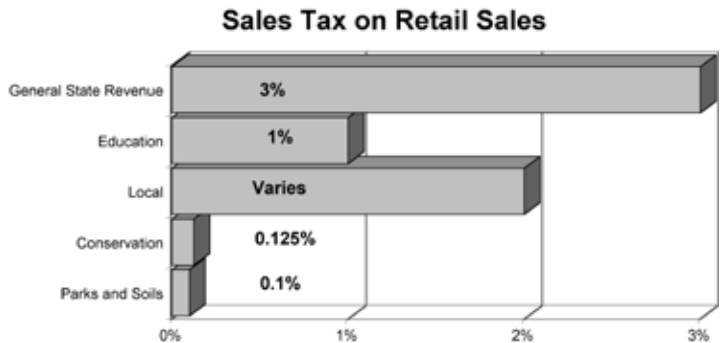
## State Sales Tax

- Missouri’s state sales tax is imposed on the purchase price of tangible personal property or taxable service sold at retail.
- As of 2008, the state sales tax rate was 4.225%.
  - General Revenue- 3.0%
  - Education- 1.0%
  - Conservation- 0.125%
  - Parks/Soils- 0.10%
- Cities and counties often impose a local sales tax. Special taxing districts (such as fire districts) may also impose additional sales taxes. These percents vary by location.
- No money from the state’s general revenue goes toward conservation.
- Of the eight surrounding states, Missouri has the lowest state sales tax rate. The following table summarizes the sales tax rates of these states. (These rates do not reflect any additional local sales taxes or special tax district rates.)

State	State Sales Tax <sup>1</sup>
Tennessee .....	7%
Illinois.....	6.25%
Arkansas .....	6%
Kentucky.....	6%
Nebraska .....	5.5%
Kansas.....	5.3%
Iowa .....	5%
Oklahoma.....	4.5%
<b>Missouri.....</b>	<b>4.225%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Federation of Tax Administrators, data as of Jan 1, 2008

- No general state revenue is collected on food purchases in Missouri. The graphs below show the difference in general purchases versus food purchases in Missouri.



For a full list of items exempt from all Missouri state sales taxes, see Chapter 144 of the Missouri Revised Statutes. Exemptions are listed in several sections; the majority of exemptions are listed in RSMo 144.030. [www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/chapters/chap144.htm](http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/chapters/chap144.htm)

### Conservation Sales Tax

- The Conservation Sales Tax is 1/8 of 1% of every taxable sale. For every \$8 spent on taxable items, one penny goes to conservation.
- In fiscal year 2007, the Department received \$103,332,575 as a result of the Conservation Sales Tax. This money made up 60% of the year's operating budget.

- The amount of state sales tax revenue generated from fish and wildlife recreation and the forest products industry is about the same as the sales tax revenue received by MDC from the Conservation Sales Tax. Conservation pays its way in Missouri.
- Conservation represents less than 1% of the total state budget.
- No money from the state's general revenue goes to the Department of Conservation.
- Every Missourian pays just \$12.50 in Conservation Sales Tax for every \$10,000 they spend on taxable goods.
- The Department's two largest revenue sources — the amount of money received from the Conservation Sales Tax and permit prices— have not kept pace with inflation over the last 5 years.
- A dedicated sales tax provides consistent funding for the long-term efforts required for the conservation of fish, forests, and wildlife. You cannot measure conservation success in even decades, since it is a long-term effort.
- History: The Conservation Sales Tax came about from a petition to put a constitutional amendment, Amendment 1, on the ballot. The amendment called for a 1/8 of 1% (0.125%) sales tax to fund the proposed strategic plan, Design for Conservation. The 1975 petition garnered 208,000 signatures of support, more than double the minimum required to place the proposed amendment on the ballot.
- The vote in November of 1976 passed Amendment 1, giving adequate funding for the implementation of Design for Conservation. The map on the next page shows the voting results by county.
- Article IV: Section 43 of the Constitution of the State of Missouri, added in 1976 as a result of the vote, outlines the Conservation Sales Tax and its intended uses.
- Section 43 was amended in 1980. Missourians voted to allow the Department to make payments in lieu of taxes for Department lands (purchased after July 1, 1977), and forest crop land payments, using the Conservation Sales Tax funds.

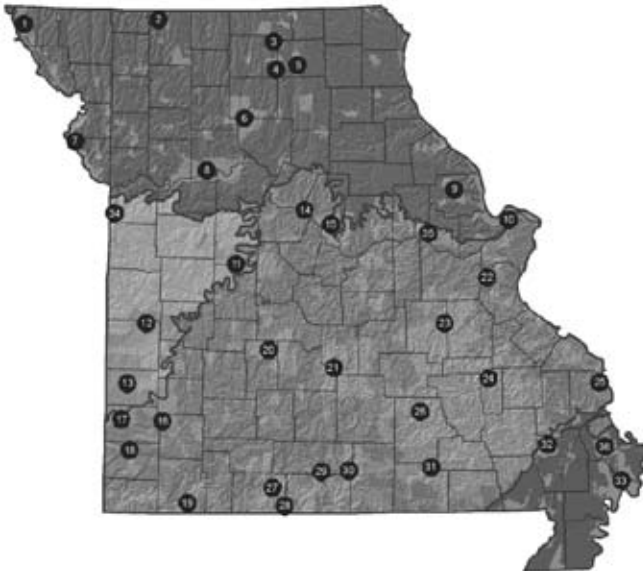


# Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy

The Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy was developed to fulfill a congressional requirement, so that Missouri may obtain additional federal funds in the form of State Wildlife Grants. The Strategy is Missouri's approach to a strong program that will conserve native plants, animals, and the habitats they depend on. It identifies and calls for the conservation of representative habitats in each of the four ecological sections of the state. These areas are referred to as Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs).

## Conservation Opportunity Areas

The Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy initially identified and profiled 33 Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) which represented habitats unique to the four ecological regions of Missouri. As of 2008, a total of 36 COAs have been profiled. The map below shows their locations around Missouri. Each COA on this map has a team of partners, consisting of public agencies, private conservation organizations, and citizen conservationists that developed a profile with a common vision of issues and actions for the area. The COA profiles can be found here: [www.mdc.mo.gov/hathis/cws/coa](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/hathis/cws/coa)



*Locations of the 36 profiled Conservation Opportunity Areas as of 2008.*

# Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is vested by the state constitution with “the control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of the bird, fish, game, forestry and all wildlife resources of the state, including hatcheries, sanctuaries, refuges, reservations and all other property owned, acquired or used for such purposes and the acquisition and establishment thereof, and the administration of all laws pertaining thereto.” (from Article IV: Section 40(a) of the Missouri Constitution.)

The Commission is made up of 4 people (no more than 2 from the same political party) who are appointed for 6-year unpaid terms by the governor.

## Current Commissioners



**Don Johnson (D)**

St. Louis

Term expires 07/01/2013



**William F. “Chip” McGeehan (R)**

Marshfield

Term expires 07/01/2011



**Lowell F. Mohler (R)**

Jefferson City

Term expires 07/01/2009



**Becky L. Plattner (D)**

Grand Pass

Term expires 07/01/2013

Short biographies of the current Commissioners can be found online:  
[www.mdc.mo.gov/about/commission](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/about/commission)

## Duties of the Commission

- appoints a conservation director who, in turn, appoints all employees (see Article IV: Section 42).
- serves as the Department's policy maker
- approves *Wildlife Code* regulations
- strategic planning
- budget development and major expenditure decisions

For more information on the duties of the Conservation Commission as outlined in the state constitution, see the "Constitution of Missouri related to MDC" section.

## Formation of the Commission

- In the early 1930s, sportsmen began to protest that the deer population was estimated at not more than 2,000 animals, with perhaps 3,500 turkeys scattered across 45 counties, and that fees from hunting permit sales were being used for projects other than wildlife habitat preservation and management.
- In 1935, a group of concerned citizens formed what is now the Conservation Federation of Missouri and drafted a constitutional amendment to form a commission to restore Missouri's wildlife and forests. The amendment was drafted to include the interests of all citizens, and followed a philosophy that it should concern itself with songbirds as well as game creatures, should embrace forestry, and that they would need broad support if their efforts were to succeed.
- The Conservation Federation of Missouri decided on a constitutional amendment, which would be voted on by the public, to delineate the commission's make-up and duties because a law could be repealed and a legislative amendment had the potential to be modified through the legislative process.
- In 1936, the people of Missouri, through the initiative petition process, placed it on the ballot and passed language that would create a non-political Conservation Commission with broad authority. The vote on Amendment 4, held on November 3, 1936, was 879,213 to 351,962, in favor of the amendment. See map on the next page for voting results by county.

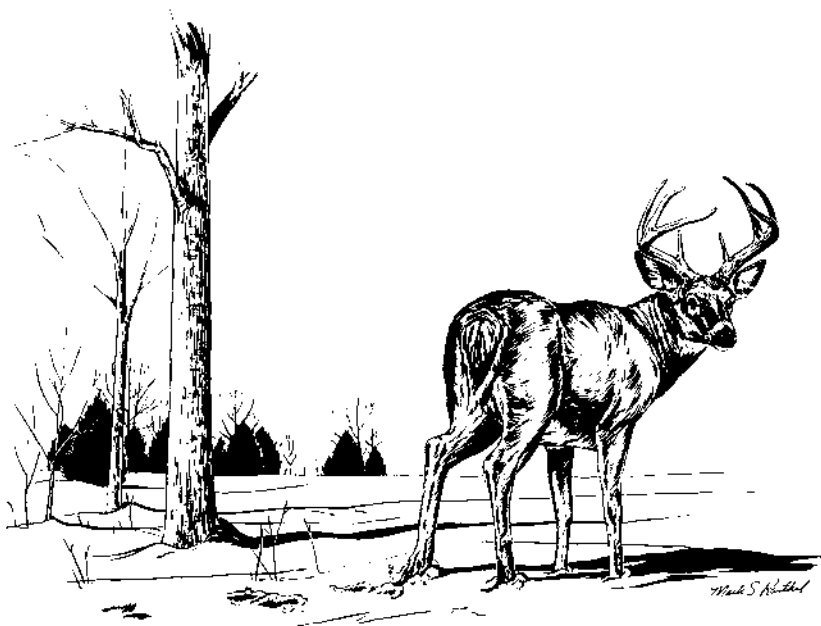
- Article IV: Sections 40-42 of the Constitution of the State of Missouri, added in 1936 as a result of the vote, outlines the creation, organization, duties and privileges of the Conservation Commission and the Department of Conservation. For more information on conservation related sections of the state constitution (Article IV: Sections 40-46), see the chapter entitled "Constitution of Missouri related to MDC." The official constitutional language can be found online. [www.moga.mo.gov/const/t04.htm](http://www.moga.mo.gov/const/t04.htm)





## Meetings of the Conservation Commission

- The Commission meets regularly throughout the state. The Commission meeting schedule can be found here: [www.mdc.mo.gov/news/agenda](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/news/agenda)
- Meetings are open to the public.
- Persons wishing to be placed on the meeting agenda must send a written or faxed request to the Director at least 10 working days before the meeting date.
- Send requests to:  
**Director John Hoskins**  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
FAX (573) 751-4467



# Constitution of Missouri related to MDC

The organization of the Department of Conservation is outlined in Article IV: The Executive Department, Sections 40-46 of the Missouri Constitution.

40(a) Conservation commission, members, qualifications, terms, how appointed— duties of commission—expenses of members.  
(adopted 1936, amended 1972)

40(b) Incumbent members.

41 Acquisition of property—eminent domain.

42 Director of conservation and personnel of commission.

43(a) Sales tax, use for conservation purposes. (adopted 1976)

43(b) Use of revenue and funds of conservation commission.  
(adopted 1976, amended 1980)

43(c) Effective date—self-enforceability. (adopted 1976)

44 Self-enforceability—enabling clause—repealing clause.

45 Rules and regulations—filing—review.

46 Distribution of rules and regulations.

- Sections 40-42 were added in 1936 and created the Conservation Commission and the Department of Conservation, and outlines the organization, duties and privileges of each.
  - Section 40(a): “The control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of the bird, fish, game, forestry and all wildlife resources of the state, including hatcheries, sanctuaries, refuges, reservations and all other property owned, acquired or used for such purposes and the acquisition and establishment thereof, and the administration of all laws pertaining thereto, shall be vested in a conservation commission consisting of four members appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, not more than two of whom shall be of the same political party. The members shall have knowledge of and interest in wildlife conservation. The members shall hold office for terms of six years beginning on the first day of July of consecutive odd years. Two of the terms shall be concurrent; one shall begin two years before and one two years after the concurrent terms. If the governor fails to fill a vacancy

within thirty days, the remaining members shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. The members shall receive no salary or other compensation for their services as members, but shall receive their necessary traveling and other expenses incurred while actually engaged in the discharge of their official duties.”

- Section 42. “The commission shall appoint a director of conservation who, with its approval, shall appoint the assistants and other employees deemed necessary by the commission. The commission shall fix the qualifications and salaries of the director and all appointees and employees, and none of its members shall be an appointee or employee.”
- Section 43, adopted in 1976, outlines the conservation sales tax, and its intended uses, which are conservation efforts and payments to counties in lieu of property taxes.
- Section 44 states that any law that goes against what is outlined in sections 40-43 do not apply.
- Section 45 states that all Commission rulings will take 10 days to go into effect, and any rulings affecting private rights will be subject to judicial review.
- Section 46 states that the Commission must supply printed copies of all rules and regulations that they pass to anyone who requests it.

The official wording of Article IV Sections 40-46 can be found online [www.moga.mo.gov/const/t04.htm](http://www.moga.mo.gov/const/t04.htm)

The organization of the Department is outlined in the *Code of State Regulations*: 3 CSR 10-1.010 Organization and Methods of Operation. This is chapter 1 of *The Wildlife Code of Missouri*.  
[www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp)

# Contacts for the Public

To find local MDC contacts- (Conservation agent, fisheries management biologist, forester, natural history biologist, private land conservationist, education consultant, or outdoor skills specialist) go to [www.mdc.mo.gov/contact](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/contact)

## Endangered Species

- For information about a state listed species, contact the Endangered Species Coordinator: Peggy Horner (573) 751-4115 x3151 or go to [www.mdc.mo.gov/nathis/endangered](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/nathis/endangered)
- To obtain a permit to collect a Missouri Species of Conservation Concern, contact Stephanie Liebi at (573) 751-4115 x3574
- For information on how to comply with federal and state laws, rules and regulations regarding a Species of Conservation Concern, contact Shannon Cave at (573) 751-4115 x3250
- For information about federally listed endangered species, contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service- Ecological Services in Columbia at (573) 234-2132 or go to <http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Endangered/lists/missouri-spp.html>

## Fish Kills

- Fish kills, diseased fish, or fish with high numbers of parasites may be an indication of a localized environmental problem.
- To report a fish kill during working hours:  
MDC Pager: (888) 216-7168 or call the Resource Science Center: (573) 882-9909  
**Leanna Zweig**, ext. 3228  
**Cindy DiStefano**, ext. 3297  
**Mike McKee**, ext. 3255
- To report a fish kill after hours, weekends, and holidays:  
MDC Pager (888) 216-7168  
DNR Emergency Environmental Response (573) 634-2436

# Media Contacts

A roster of MDC media contacts can be found on the MDC Web site.  
[www.mdc.mo.gov/documents/news/media\\_contacts.pdf](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/documents/news/media_contacts.pdf)

## Nuisance Wildlife

- The first point of contact for dealing with nuisance wildlife is the local conservation agent. To find the agent's name and phone number, call 573-751-4115 or go to [www.mdc.mo.gov/contact/agent](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/contact/agent). If the agent cannot find a solution, he or she will notify the area's wildlife damage biologist.

### North District

Daryl Damron  
108 Sappington  
Columbia, MO 65203  
(573) 514-0076

### Central District

Jim Braithwait  
22834 State Road A  
Richland, MO 65556  
(573) 774-3490

### Kansas City District

Todd Meese  
Discovery Center  
4750 Troost Ave.  
Kansas City, MO 64110  
(816) 759-7300

### South District

Scott McWilliams  
4007 County Road 6920  
West Plains, MO 65775  
(417) 256-6470

### St. Louis District

Tom Meister  
Powder Valley Nature Center  
11715 Cragwold Rd.  
Kirkwood, MO 63112  
(314) 301-1500

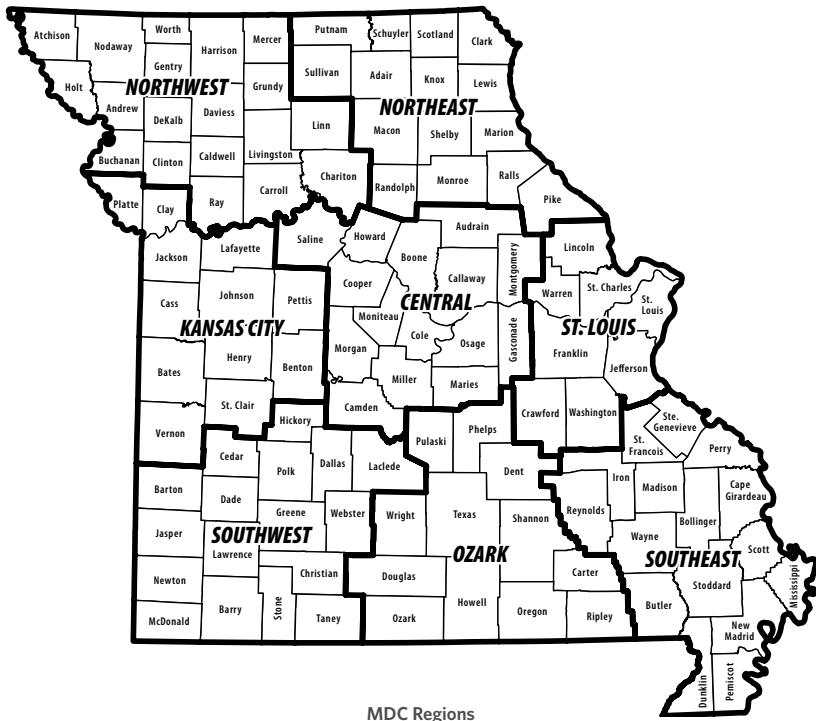


- *The Wildlife Code of Missouri* states the parameters for out of season lethal hunting and trapping methods in regulation 3 CSR 10-4.130 Owner May Protect Property.
- Landowners with problems involving insects should contact their local University Extension office. <http://extension.missouri.edu>
- Landowners with problems involving federally endangered or threatened species, or migratory birds, or other federally protected species should contact the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at 573-449-3033.

## Offices

### Administrative Office

P.O. Box 180 (zip 65102)  
 2901 W. Truman Blvd.  
 Jefferson City, MO 65109  
 (573) 751-4115



MDC Regions

## Regional Offices

### Northwest

701 James McCarthy Dr.  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
(816) 271-3100

### Northeast

3500 S. Baltimore  
Kirksville, MO 63501  
(660) 785-2424

### Kansas City

3424 N.W. Duncan Rd.  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
(816) 655-6250

### Central

1907 Hillcrest Drive  
Columbia, MO 65201  
(573) 884-6861

### St. Louis

2360 Highway D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
(636) 441-4554

### Southwest

2630 N. Mayfair  
Springfield, MO 65803  
(417) 895-6880

### Ozark

551 Joe Jones Blvd.  
West Plains, MO 65775  
(417) 256-7161

### Southeast

2302 Country Park Dr.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 290-5730

## Design for Conservation: A Plan to Increase Efforts

The Design for Conservation, released in 1970, was a long-reaching strategic plan for conservation in Missouri. In it, the Department pledged to buy land for recreation, forestry, and the protection of critical habitats for rare or endangered species. Design also called for increased services to the public in the areas of wildlife and forest conservation, for research into forestry techniques and wildlife management, and for locating a system of Conservation Interpretation Centers on Department lands. Funding for the increased conservation efforts proposed in Design was achieved when the sales tax amendment passed in 1976 and funds became available in 1977.

Subsequent strategic plans modified the vision of Design for Conservation to reflect the changing social values, demands, and other pressures on the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state.





# Directors

- The 1936 constitutional amendment that called for the formation of the Conservation Commission also stated that the Commission would appoint a Director of the Department of Conservation.
- Duties of the Director are defined in the Missouri Constitution, Article IV, Section 42:
  - “The commission shall appoint a director of conservation who, with its approval, shall appoint the assistants and other employees deemed necessary by the commission. The commission shall fix the qualifications and salaries of the director and all appointees and employees, and none of its members shall be an appointee or employee.”
- There have been 7 Directors of the Department of Conservation:
  - Irwin T. Bode; 1937 - 1957
  - William Towell; 1957 - 1966
  - Carl Noren; 1967 - 1979
  - Larry Gale; 1979 - 1988
  - Jerry Presley; 1988 - 1997
  - Jerry Conley; 1997 - 2002
  - John Hoskins; 2002 - present

## Director's Office

The Director's Office consists of the Director, the three Assistant Directors, Administrative Support, the Custodian of Records, the Federal Aid Unit, the General Counsel, the Grants and Donations Coordinator, the Internal Auditors, the Policy Coordination Unit, and the Realty Services Unit.

### Administrative Support

This unit provides administrative support to the Director, Assistant Directors, Conservation Commission, General and Deputy Counsel, Custodian of Records, the Hearing Officer, and the Realty Services staff.

### Assistant Directors

**Dave Erickson** supervises all of the "resource" divisions of the Department (Fisheries, Forestry, Private Land Services, Protection, Resource Science, and Wildlife), with regard to budget, land, resource, and public use management issues. Erickson is also the chair of the Regulations Committee.

**Bob Ziehmer** serves as the Department's Governmental Liaison with members of the General Assembly and the Executive Branch. He supervises the Administrative Services and the Design and Development Divisions, and is the chair of the Department's Realty Committee. Unrelated to his duties as Assistant Director, Ziehmer also serves on the Department of Natural Resources' Land Reclamation Commission.

**Tim Ripperger** supervises the Outreach and Education Division, Policy Coordination Unit, and the Federal Aid Unit. Additionally, Ripperger is the federal liaison for legislative matters and is the chair of the Capital Improvements and Information Technology Committee.

### Custodian of Records

The Custodian of Records addresses and responds to submitted requests for the Department's records under the Sunshine Law.

## Federal Aid

This unit coordinates and administers the Department's federal aid grants, provides technical assistance to project leaders with regard to grant development, review and approval, policy and compliance assurance, and audit coordination.

## General Counsel

The General Counsel unit oversees all aspects of Department real estate transactions, including acquisitions, disposals, trades, leases, easements, and donations; provides legal counsel and represents the Department in litigation.

## Grants & Donations

The Grants and Donations Program Coordinator manages and supports the Department's grants and donations program and promotes private funding and support for conservation efforts. Additionally, the Coordinator provides technical assistance and support to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation.

## Internal Audit

The Internal Auditing team provides independent, objective assurance and consulting services designed to add value and improve the Department's operations. The scope of work of the Internal Auditors is to determine whether the Department's accountability, internal controls, and governance processes are adequate and functioning as intended.

## Policy Coordination

The Policy Coordination staff provides intra- and inter-agency coordination in the areas of resource management policy, river basin coordination, public involvement, planning, and environmental and cultural resource compliance.

# Realty Services

The Realty Services Unit is responsible for handling all aspects of Department real estate matters including acquisitions (purchases and donations), disposals, land trades, easements, boundary issues, and leases.



# Divisions

The Missouri Department of Conservation is organized into 10 divisions.

## Administrative Services

The Administrative Services Division provides administrative support by way of 2 sections and 4 units: Financial Services Section, Information Technology Services Section, Permit Services Unit, Fleet and Property Services Unit, Flight Services Unit, and General Services Unit. The Division coordinates and administers all budget, revenue, and finance functions; provides technology planning, systems research and design, customer technical support; voice and data network operations; distributes and manages hunting, fishing, commercial and landowner permits; manages the equipment fleet and aviation services; maintains the publications distribution center; and oversees the products and media loan service.

## Design & Development

The Design and Development Division provides engineering, architectural and construction services in support of Department programs. The Division's primary function is to implement and administer the Department's capital improvement program with typical projects being reservoirs, wetlands, hatcheries, nature centers, resource management support buildings, river and lake public access areas, stream improvements, shooting ranges, and related engineering studies. Related services include surveying, cartography, engineering studies, construction maintenance, and building and grounds maintenance.

## Fisheries

Fisheries Division manages 5 warmwater fish hatcheries (for rearing the fish needed to stock public waters, suitable private lakes, and waters used for special fishing events and aquatic resource education) and 5 cold-water fish hatcheries (for rearing trout needed to stock public waters and trout parks); administers the Stream Team program; provides fisheries management of public impoundments, rivers and streams; offers technical guidance in stream and lake management to private landowners and other

public agencies; oversees the acquisition and development of public fishing and boat access areas; administers community, agency, and partnership agreements; participates in recovery plans of threatened or endangered aquatic species; and educates and informs the public about aquatic resources through technical and popular written materials, electronic media, presentations to groups, workshops, interviews to journalists and personal contacts.

## Forestry

The Forestry Division works to ensure the well-being of the forest resources and addresses what people need from that resource. Forestry staff provides technical advice and assistance that includes monitoring of forest health, tree planting recommendations, advice and recommendations for forest improvement, forest ecology, forest inventory and analysis, forest products marketing and utilization, and overall management of the total forest-related resources for its many benefits. The Forestry Division also maintains the Department's seedling nursery.

## Human Resources

The Human Resources Division provides services that help the Department to attract and retain qualified employees to accomplish its goals and objectives. Activities are divided into 7 major functions: Recruitment and Selection, including Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action; Compensation and Classification Administration; Policy Administration, including law and regulation compliance; Training and Development; Employee Benefits Administration; Employee Relations and Services; and Employee Safety, including Workers' Compensation.

## Outreach & Education

The Outreach and Education Division works to help Missourians of all ages understand the value of our plant and animal resources and how to keep them thriving for years to come. Outreach and Education staff provides hands-on connections with the outdoors through skills classes, nature centers and special events. In addition, they keep people up-to-date about where they can hunt, fish, trap, hike, watch birds and more so they can make their own conservation connections throughout Missouri. The

Outreach and Education staff works in three main areas: outreach programs, conservation education, and outdoor skills. The outreach programs staff produces a variety of information tools, including: the Missouri Conservationist magazine, books, brochures, videos, our Web site, exhibits, news, nature shops, and more. The conservation education staff works through schools and nature centers to help Missourians learn more about putting conservation into practice. The outdoor skills staff provides opportunities to use the shooting ranges on conservation areas, provides school-based skills training, and provides classes for youth and adults who want to hunt, fish, camp, hike, or enjoy the outdoors through safe and ethical nature-based recreation.

## Private Land Services

The Private Land Services Division helps Missouri landowners achieve their land use objectives in ways that enhance the conservation of Missouri's natural resources. Private Land Services staff promotes the wise use of fish, forests, wildlife and natural communities through voluntary participation, information, financial assistance, and partnerships. This includes assistance to landowners to evaluate natural resource and wildlife damage conditions, and recommendations of management and improvement techniques. They establish partnerships with other state and federal agencies, commodity groups, agri-businesses, and conservation organizations to develop and achieve common natural resource goals. They strive to encourage a land management ethic among landowners, increase community involvement, build trust, and heighten understanding of the Department's mission.

## Protection

The Protection Division is responsible for enforcement of *The Wildlife Code of Missouri* and related statutes on both private and public lands as well as many other duties. Conservation agents are assigned to each county in Missouri, and represent the Department in a wide variety of programs. Agents administer the hunter education program in their local area. Agents provide conservation information and education through newspaper articles, adult and youth meetings, exhibits, clinics, and radio/television programs. Protection Division personnel provide basic information and materials for fish, wildlife and forest management to Missouri citizens, and are involved in administering MDC landowner assistance programs.

In addition, conservation agents routinely make contacts with landowners who have wildlife depredation or nuisance problems, poaching or trespass problems, and a host of other needs. Protection Division cooperates with the Conservation Federation of Missouri in administering Operation Game Thief, Operation Forest Arson, and Share the Harvest programs.

## Resource Science

The Resource Science Division ensures integration of population dynamics, habitat relationships, and constituent desires into science-based management and policy for grassland, agricultural, forest, wetland, and aquatic systems. An emphasis on biometrics, GIS/GPS technologies, and database management is required for sound study design, comprehensive analysis, and confident reporting of research and monitoring results. Science services in the form of diagnostics, genetics research, forest entomology, and water quality investigations provide specialized assistance for resource professionals as well as the Missouri public. Assisting resource managers with evaluation of their fish, wildlife, and habitat management efforts also is a priority for the Resource Science Division. Special emphasis on species and communities of concern through surveys, monitoring and comprehensive databases is dedicated to protecting endangered species, wildlife diversity and natural community conservation. Training of resource managers through specialized workshops provides skills in taxonomy, field sampling methods, and technical applications. The Division also provides technical support for establishing harvest regulations, conservation planning, and public information through popular and professional publications.

## Wildlife

The Wildlife Division is responsible for the management of Missouri's wildlife resources to best serve the long-term interests of the people of the state. Accomplishing this objective involves a wide range of programs and activities on public and private land. Administration of hunting seasons, uses, and coordination with other agencies help ensure that wildlife and wildlife habitat receive full consideration in all land management activities. The Wildlife Division also provides a number of special services designed to aid people in many aspects of wildlife conservation. These include management advice to individuals and groups interested in wild animals, assistance to alleviate wildlife damage, personal appearances as speakers on wildlife topics, and preparation of publications, reports, regional plans and replies to inquiries.





# Employees

## Quick Statistics

### As of 2007—

- The Department of Conservation employed 1,533 people.
- The average age of MDC employees was 43.
- The average amount of time employees have worked for MDC was 12 years 9 months.
- 30% of employees (465 people) were eligible to retire within the next 6 years (by 2013).
- 22.4% of MDC employees were female (345 people) and 77.2% of employees (1,188 people) were male.

Ethnicity	Total
White	95.76%
Non-White	4.23%
Black	2.87%
American Indian	0.52%
Asian	0.45%
Hispanic	0.39%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

- In fiscal year 2007, the total employee retention was 93.2%. Of the turnover, 65 people (4.2% of the workforce) went to work for another Missouri state agency; 10 people (0.65%) were dismissed; 24 people (1.6%) retired; and 7 people (0.46%) left for other reasons.
- Over recent years, the average voluntary turnover has been about 3.7%.
- The Department of Conservation is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Salaries and Benefits

For the most current information on benefits and compensation, see the Human Resources Policy Manual.

- In fiscal year 2009, the budget for employee salaries was \$76 million. That is roughly half of the total revenue received by the Department.
- A 1% raise in salaries for employees translates to an increase of \$922,000 in funding needed for the Department.
- Under Missouri Statute, state employees are not allowed to receive bonuses or geographical cost-of-living adjustments.
- The Department follows the Governor's office advisement of official state holidays. Typically, there are 12 each year. This is considered part of state employees' compensation.



# Facilities

- 4 trout parks stocked (operated by the Dept. of Natural Resources and the James Foundation)
- 846 lakes managed by MDC
- 5 coldwater fish hatcheries
- 5 warmwater fish hatcheries
- 1 tree seedling nursery
- 5 Conservation Nature Centers (Blue Springs- Burr Oak Woods; Jefferson City-Runge; Kirkwood-Powder Valley; Springfield; Cape Girardeau)
- 2 Education Centers (Kansas City- Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center; Winona-Twin Pines)
- 5 staffed shooting range and outdoor education centers
- 70 unstaffed shooting ranges in 64 counties
- 1 central administrative office
- 8 regional service centers



# Facts and Figures

## Accomplishments in One Year -2007

Listed below are just some of the Department's accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2007.

### Cooperation with Other Agencies

- Cooperated with several agencies to restore forest, fish and wildlife resources affected by the collapse of the Upper Taum Sauk reservoir.
- Joined other resource agencies and AmerenUE in efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat around Bagnell Dam. Additionally, water quality and habitat improvements will be provided for the 82 miles of the Osage River below Bagnell Dam.
- Cooperated with the U.S. Forest Service to provide more than \$281,000 in grants to more than 140 volunteer fire departments, funding protective clothing, equipment and training.
- With the Missouri Department of Transportation, facilitated the conversion of 397 acres of highway right-of-way from introduced, cool-season grasses to a diverse mixture of native warm-season grasses, forbs and legumes.
- Distributed over \$1 million of US Forest Service funds to more than 300 Missouri landowners to improve the health and sustainability of their forests through the Forest Land Enhancement Program.
- Working with various local, state and federal partners, initiated National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI) projects in the Table Rock Lake/Lake Tanycomo and Meremec River watersheds.

### County Assistance

\$1,396,404 was paid to Missouri's counties for levee and drainage district taxes, forest cropland payments, payments in lieu of real estate taxes, and County Aid Road Trust payments. (see tables on following pages for county breakdowns).

*County Aid Road Trust (CART) Program Totals for Fiscal Year 2007*

<b>County</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Payment</b>
Adair .....	\$15,413	Lafayette .....	\$7,437
Andrew.....	\$3,285	Lincoln .....	\$5,740
Atchinson .....	\$3,692	Linn.....	\$11,625
Barton.....	\$6,792	Livingston .....	\$15,202
Bates.....	\$18,111	Macon .....	\$13,258
Benton .....	\$2,805	Madison .....	\$1,722
Boone.....	\$14,158	Maries .....	\$12,860
Butler .....	\$800	Miller .....	\$7,625
Caldwell .....	\$1,923	Moniteau .....	\$20,144
Carroll.....	\$12,643	Morgan.....	\$2,000
Chariton .....	\$8,339	Ozark .....	\$8,442
Dade .....	\$4,241	Putnam.....	\$4,897
Dallas .....	\$15,812	Ray.....	\$9,372
DeKalb.....	\$9,552	Reynolds .....	\$500
Gentry .....	\$2,996	Ste. Genevieve....	\$20,000
Henry.....	\$2,323	Shelby .....	\$3,975
Hickory .....	\$7,668	Sullivan.....	\$28,896
Holt .....	\$7,709	Vernon .....	\$2,350
Howard.....	\$19,190	Warren .....	\$8,137
Johnson.....	\$15,000	Worth .....	\$3,705
Lawrence .....	\$1,150	<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$361,489</b>

*County In-Lieu-Of-Tax Payments, Forest Cropland Payments,  
And Payments to Levee & Drainage Districts for 2005*

<b>County</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Payment</b>
Adair .....	\$3,617	Dade .....	\$2,268
Andrew.....	\$11,917	Dallas .....	\$4,212
Atchinson .....	\$3,213	Daviess.....	\$175
Audrain .....	\$3,007	DeKalb.....	\$5,060
Barry .....	\$1,999	Dent .....	\$3,410
Barton.....	\$11,550	Douglas .....	\$1,295
Bates .....	\$11,597	Dunklin.....	\$99,226
Benton .....	\$3,981	Franklin .....	\$7,206
Bollinger.....	\$7,596	Gasconade .....	\$1,391
Boone.....	\$23,054	Gentry .....	\$3,222
Buchanan.....	\$2,108	Greene.....	\$5,761
Butler .....	\$8,217	Grundy .....	\$134
Caldwell .....	\$1,558	Harrison .....	\$5,667
Callaway .....	\$5,390	Henry.....	\$935
Camden .....	\$2,444	Hickory .....	\$1,500
Cape Girardeau .....	\$2,954	Holt .....	\$23,634
Carroll.....	\$4,531	Howard.....	\$12,633
Carter .....	\$751	Howell .....	\$4,737
Cass .....	\$11,889	Iron .....	\$2,339
Cedar .....	\$4,136	Jackson .....	\$11,192
Chariton .....	\$614	Jasper .....	\$0
Christian .....	\$2,354	Jefferson .....	\$9,171
Clark .....	\$6,629	Johnson.....	\$1,877
Clay .....	\$3,400	Knox.....	\$774
Clinton .....	\$538	Laclede.....	\$987
Cole.....	\$6,497	Lafayette .....	\$5,152
Cooper.....	\$7,883	Lawrence .....	\$7,326
Crawford.....	\$1,003	Lewis.....	\$3,683

County	Payment
Lincoln .....	\$8,983
Linn.....	\$5,507
Livingston .....	\$9,259
Macon .....	\$3,272
Madison .....	\$1,878
Maries .....	\$1,284
Marion .....	\$1,587
McDonald.....	\$662
Mercer.....	\$4,950
Miller .....	\$4,603
Mississippi .....	\$23,701
Moniteau .....	\$5,958
Monroe .....	\$595
Montgomery .....	\$2,295
Morgan.....	\$5,507
New Madrid.....	\$6,864
Newton .....	\$3,977
Nodaway.....	\$14,930
Oregon .....	\$366
Osage .....	\$3,827
Ozark .....	\$1,292
Pemiscot .....	\$8,297
Perry.....	\$850
Pettis.....	\$2,068
Phelps.....	\$1,242
Pike.....	\$230
Platte .....	\$12,134
Polk.....	\$608
Pulaski .....	\$279
Putnam.....	\$7,657

County	Payment
Ralls.....	\$162
Randolph .....	\$443
Ray.....	\$3,640
Reynolds .....	\$835
Ripley.....	\$2,124
Saline .....	\$1,271
Schuyler .....	\$6,808
Scotland .....	\$3,415
Scott.....	\$855
Shannon .....	\$50,021
Shelby .....	\$1,327
St. Charles .....	\$10,290
St. Clair.....	\$1,161
St. Francois .....	\$6,648
St. Louis .....	\$2,455
Ste. Genevieve.....	\$40,944
Stoddard .....	\$13,953
Stone.....	\$1,577
Sullivan.....	\$10,777
Taney .....	\$4,777
Texas .....	\$7,247
Vernon .....	\$25,034
Warren .....	\$1,874
Washington .....	\$6,343
Wayne .....	\$2,490
Webster .....	\$398
Worth .....	\$6,488
Wright .....	\$2,063
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$739,476</b>



## Education

- 1,066 hunter education classes were taught, certifying 29,000 students.
- More than 1 million people visited the conservation nature centers and shooting-range/outdoor-education centers. The Springfield Conservation Nature Center alone offered 877 programs and hosted 102,000 visitors.
- More than 250 loggers have learned forest management principles and safety through the Professional Timber Harvester program offered by MDC and the Missouri Forest Products Association.
- MDC became the Missouri coordinating agency for the National Archery in the Schools program.
- 700 instructional programs in hunting, fishing, trapping and shooting sports were provided to more than 45,000 people.
- MDC trained more than 565 local firefighters in wildland fire behavior, suppression techniques and safety at no cost to the fire departments or the volunteers.
- 33 middle schools with 2,431 students received grants to participate in the Learning Outdoors school program.
- Provided \$185,000 in conservation grants to 318 schools for outdoor classrooms, equipment, and busing costs for field trips.
- 1,176 people attended stream or lake management workshops.

## Enforcement

- Conservation agents contacted 221,000 hunters and anglers to ensure compliance and provide regulation information.
- Agents noted 31,100 resource violations, issued 4,500 written warnings and made 8,900 arrests (resulting in a 95 percent conviction rate).
- Operation Game Thief/Operation Forest Arson produced 290 convictions from 742 telephone calls. \$12,025 in reward money was paid to callers.

## **Fishing**

- The winter catch-and-release season at Bennett Spring, Montauk and Roaring River state parks was expanded.
- A new winter trout area was established at Spur Pond in Kirksville.
- Acquisition of the Bohigian Conservation Area provided new public access to 1.26 miles of the Mill Creek Blue Ribbon Trout Area.

## **Hunting**

- Over 322,000 pounds of venison were donated through the Share the Harvest program.
- MDC has expanded opportunities for deer hunters, such as unlimited antlerless deer permits for many counties, no-cost deer permits for resident landowners, the Managed Deer Hunt Program, and additional urban deer harvest opportunities.
- MDC expanded the management of conservation areas to provide dove-hunting opportunities to more than 70 counties.
- Established ranges 4 new shooting ranges.

## **Service to Private Landowners**

- Delivered nearly \$1.1 million in cost-share funds to 607 private landowners.
- 9,665 private landowners received on-site technical assistance in incorporating conservation practices on their land.
- Improved habitat for quail and grassland songbirds on more than 13,000 acres of private land.
- Helped landowners enroll almost 5,800 acres into the Wetlands Reserve Program.
- Assisted 4,634 private landowners in controlling nuisance wildlife.
- Coordinated 69 watershed-focused resource management projects.
- 134,585 pounds of food plot seed were given to 3,442 Missouri landowners through the Missouri Seed program.

## Research

- MDC had contact with 88,939 Missourians to determine their outdoor activities and opinions about conservation programs through public information surveys, focus groups, and public meetings.
- Numerous studies of the environmental threats, life history, and propagation of hellbenders, an endangered amphibian, are underway in order to better understand how we can increase the population.
- Research in the greater prairie chicken, Ozark cavefish, sturgeon species, alligator gar, prairie restoration, stream sedimentation rates, shortleaf pine restoration, and so much more is in progress so that MDC can learn how to more efficiently and effectively manage Missouri's natural resources.

## Resource Management

- Managed 924 lakes and 40 stream management areas for public fishing.
- Fish hatcheries stocked 9.6 million fish in public lakes and streams.
- Distributed 4.7 million seedlings of over 50 species for planting to nearly 12,000 landowners.
- Developed 152 Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans, bringing an additional 38,336 acres under total resource management.
- Managed 964,898 acres of public land and implemented programs to maintain and restore natural communities, and wildlife diversity across Missouri's landscape.
- The Stream Stewardship Trust Fund (administered through the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation) granted \$690,000, which was used to protect 70.1 acres of stream channel and 276 acres of riparian corridor.
- Through the Community Assistance Program, MDC has agreements with 114 partners (cities, schools, foundations, etc.) for the cooperative management of 9,236 acres of public lakes, 41 stream-access areas, four lake-access areas and six aquatic-resource education ponds.

# Demographics and Opinions of Missourians

(Data from the U.S. Census Bureau; 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the 2003 Conservation Opinion survey conducted by the University of Missouri)

Ethnicity of Missourians	Total
White	84%
Black	12%
Hispanic	2%
Other	4%

- Over 73% of Missourians live in an urban and suburban area.
- Missouri was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for number of resident hunters and 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation for number of resident anglers in 2006. [Missouri ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for resident hunting retail sales and 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for non-resident hunting retail sales.]
- There are more than 1 million anglers in Missouri. They would fill Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City 14 times.
- There are more than 608,000 hunters in Missouri. They would fill Arrowhead Stadium 7 times.
- There are more than 2.2 million wildlife watchers in Missouri. They would fill Arrowhead Stadium 28 times.
- 93% of Missourians report they are interested in Missouri’s fish, forests, and wildlife.
- 91% of Missourians agree that “It is important for outdoor places to be protected even if you don’t plan to visit the area.”
- 79% of Missourians agree that the Department “should make an effort to restore animals that once lived or are currently very rare in Missouri.”
- 73% agree that land should be acquired for fish, forest, and wildlife conservation.
- About 25% of Missourians say they “Don’t know” about the job the Department is doing. Urban residents are twice as likely to respond “Don’t know” as outstate residents.

## Economic Impact of Conservation in Missouri

(Data from 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation that is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

The amount of state sales tax revenue generated from fish and wildlife recreation and the forest products industry is about the same as the sales tax revenue received by MDC from the Conservation Sales Tax-

### **Conservation pays its way in Missouri.**

- The total economic impact from fish and wildlife recreation and forest products in Missouri is more than \$10 billion.
- Missourians and non-residents spend over \$3 billion annually related to fish, forest, and wildlife recreation.
- Annual spending in 2006 on outdoor recreation in Missouri was more than double the cash receipts for cattle and calves, one of the state's most valuable agricultural commodities.
- Fishing and hunting expenditures generate over \$269 million for Missouri each year in state and local taxes.
- The annual expenditures related to fish and wildlife recreation and the forest products industry support over 80,000 jobs in Missouri.
- Since 1980, more than \$12.42 million has been paid to Missouri counties in lieu of taxes.
- Deer hunters in Missouri, age 16 years and older, spend over 5.7 million days afield and spent over \$690 million in 2006.
- Deer hunting in Missouri generates \$1.1 billion of business activity and supports over 11,000 jobs annually.
- The forestry and wood products industry in Missouri is an over \$5.7 billion activity and supports 31,700 jobs.

## Federal Aid Received

MDC receives about \$20 million/year from federal sources. Most federal aid comes from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the Wildlife Restoration and the Sport Fish Restoration programs. Other sources of federal aid come from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Money from all sources typically comes to MDC on a reimbursement basis.



### The Wildlife Restoration Program

- Originally called the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937.
- This program is funded by excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment.
- Funds are distributed to the states based on a formula that includes the total area of each state and the number of paid license holders in each state.
- Missouri ranks 10th in the amount of money distributed under this program.
- *Funds must be used for:*

- The restoration, conservation, management, and enhancement of wild birds and mammals, and the provision for public use of and benefits from these resources.
- The education of hunters and archers in the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible hunters or archers.

## The Sport Fish Restoration Program

- Began with Dingell-Johnson Act (1950), was amended by Wallop-Breaux Act (1984), and again through the Transportation Equity Act of 2005.
- Funded by excise taxes on fishing equipment and trolling motors, motorboat and small engine fuels tax, and import duties on tackle, pleasure boats, and yachts.
- Funds are distributed to the states based on a formula that includes the total area of each state and the number of paid license holders in each state.
- 15% of funds must be spent on boat access development and maintenance, and another 15% may be spent on aquatic resource education.
- Missouri ranks about 13th in the amount of money distributed under this program.
- *Funds must be used for:*
  - The restoration, conservation, management, and enhancement of sport fish, and the provision for public use of and benefits from these resources.
  - The enhancement of public understanding of water resources and aquatic life forms, and the development of responsible attitudes toward the aquatic environment.

**Fiscal Year 2008 Federal Apportion from:**

**Wildlife Restoration Act**

Texas .....	\$14,256,523
Alaska .....	\$13,022,846
Pennsylvania .....	\$11,453,294
Michigan .....	\$10,649,276
California .....	\$10,360,873
Tennessee .....	\$9,652,824
Wisconsin .....	\$9,628,060
Minnesota .....	\$9,435,902
New York .....	\$8,645,429
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$8,371,387</b>
<b>ALL STATES...</b>	<b>\$309,686,579</b>

**Sport Fish Restoration Act**

Texas .....	\$19,916,886
California .....	\$19,916,886
Alaska .....	\$19,916,886
Minnesota .....	\$14,921,285
Florida .....	\$13,288,954
Wisconsin .....	\$13,233,523
Michigan .....	\$13,027,495
New York .....	\$9,775,004
Tennessee .....	\$9,556,465
Colorado .....	\$9,528,248
Georgia .....	\$9,519,386
Montana .....	\$9,456,194
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$9,333,968</b>
<b>ALL STATES....</b>	<b>\$398,337,729</b>



# History of the Department

## 1935

- Restoration and Conservation Federation of Missouri is established
- E. Sydney Stephens is elected president of the Conservation Federation; helps draft a constitutional amendment that would form a Conservation Commission.

## 1936

- Petition drive for Amendment 4, creating the non-political Conservation Commission, begins by Conservation Federation of Missouri.
- Amendment 4 passes by voters on November 3. Vote was 879,213 for and 351,962 against.

## 1937-1938

- Constitutional Amendment 4 creating the Conservation Commission becomes effective July 1. First Conservation Commission meeting is held on July 2. Commission consists of E. Sydney Stephens (chair), John F. Case, Wilbur C. Buford, and Albert P. Greensfelder.
- Department is divided into Administrative Division, Fish, Game and Forest Division, and Information and Education Division.
- Supreme Court rules Commission has power to establish regulations and abolishes all laws in conflict.
- State Park Board is formed; consists of governor, attorney general, and MDC director. Park lands divided between new Park Board and Conservation, based on primary use.
- Federal Wildlife Restoration program (Pittman-Robertson Act) is adopted.
- First issue of Missouri Conservationist comes out on July 1, 1938-10,000 copies.
- Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas begins; 1,200 farmers cooperate.
- Farm Pond program begins.
- First "Showboat" is launched. The Showboat was a truck which foresters used to visit rural areas that showed movies promoting fire suppression and wildlife habitat.

## 1939-1940

- Commission closes seasons on deer and turkey, inaugurates refuge system for all game.

- Protection Division is established.
- Forest seedling nursery is started.

## 1941-1942

- Department now has 251 employees, 1943 budget of \$686,300.
- Cooperative fish rearing pond program is established.
- First farm forestry projects are initiated.
- First pollution investigations are undertaken.
- Department takes over operations of the US Forest Service nursery in Licking, MO.
- Protection is given Division status.

## 1944

- Deer hunting season reopens; two-day season in 20 counties, 589 deer taken.

## 1946

- Wildlife and Forestry Act declares title to wildlife belongs to the state, establishes powers of agents, fixes penalties for violations of Commission rules.
- A separate State Forestry Act establishes Forest Crop Land Program, provides penalties for forest arson and timber theft.
- Forestry Division splits from Fish and Game Division.
- Commission issues policy that no Department employee may hunt deer.

## 1949

- Commission allows employees to hunt during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> days of deer season, but not in the county they are assigned.
- Two agents, Roger Reed and Ed Hartel are shot by a suspected waterfowl poacher in Mississippi County. Both survive, shooter is later arrested.

## 1950

- Dingell-Johnson Act passes, beginning the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

## 1951

- MDC stocks 2.5 million fish in 2,733 ponds, 260 lakes.
- "Precipitin test" is developed by agent Leroy Korschgen to identify deer blood and meat.
- Commission abolishes restrictions on employee deer hunting.

## 1956

- Six thousand miles of multiflora rose have been planted.

## 1957

- Non-residents can hunt for first time in 5-day gun deer season.
- Planting 10 million trees annually.
- Hunter Safety (Hunter Education) program begins.

## 1958

- Department emphasis officially switches from deer to turkey restoration.
- Stream access program begins.

## 1959

- Entire state is open for deer hunting for the first time; 6-day season.
- Ruffed grouse restoration project begins.

## 1960

- Department wins international attention when fisheries biologist Chuck Purkett unravels the mystery of paddlefish spawning.
- First modern day spring turkey season.

## 1961

- Conservation agent Glen McCormick shoots and kills a forest arsonist in Shannon County after being shot at and physically attacked.

## 1962

- Since 1944 the Department has assisted in 138,484 farm ponds; has stocked 52,570 lakes and ponds.

## 1964

- Department begins providing training, funding, and equipment to rural firefighters.

## 1965

- Game Division splits from Fisheries Division.

## 1969

- Urban fishing program begins in St. Louis City park lakes; first in nation.
- Community Forestry Program begins.

## 1970

- The *Missouri Conservation Program Report*, a study of Department and its programs conducted to determine a future course of action, is presented to the public.
- Department, anticipating reaction to the *Report*, prepares *Challenge and Response*, which estimates an additional \$21 million per year is needed to implement the proposed course of action.
- Citizens Committee for Conservation is formed in order to determine a way of funding the proposed course of action.
- W. O. Nagel's *Conservation Contrasts* is published.
- Department's triangular logo is adopted.
- Record Fish Awards program begins.

## 1971

- Design for Conservation strategic plan is released; expands on *Challenge and Response* released the previous year.

## 1972

- Petition drive for soft drink tax to fund Design succeeds, but petition is ruled invalid.

## 1973

- US Congress passes Endangered Species Act.

## 1974

- Citizens Committee for Conservation decides to go for sales tax amendment to fund the plan outlined in Design for Conservation.
- Game Division is renamed Wildlife Division to increase emphasis on non-game species management.

## 1975

- First fall archery turkey season.

## 1976

- New petition drive succeeds; voters approve one-eighth cent Conservation Sales Tax on November 2.
- New or enhanced forestry programs: utilization and marketing, rural fire protection, tree improvement, vegetative management, insects and diseases, urban and community forestry.

## 1977

- Conservation Sales Tax becomes effective on July 1. Department begins to implement plans outlined in Design for Conservation.

## 1978

- Proposed budget for fiscal year 1979 is \$48,031,601- more than double that of three years ago.
- 130 new positions filled in fiscal year 1977-78.
- The annual Eagle Days program begins.
- Ballot issue to establish in lieu of tax payments using the Conservation Sales Tax is defeated on November 7.

## 1979

- Commission makes blaze orange mandatory for deer hunters.

## 1980

- Commission endorses the amendment that would require the Department to make payments to counties in lieu of taxes, and orders widespread publicity.
- Voters approve constitutional amendment to allow payments to counties in lieu of taxes for lands purchased after July 1, 1977 and for forest cropland payments on November 4, 1980. "Hancock Amendment" is included on the same ballot. The fact that both amendments were on the same ballot was used by the Missouri Courts in later years to declare the Conservation Sales Tax not subject to the Hancock Amendment.
- Natural History Section is established.
- Kansas City urban fishing program begins.
- Community Assistance Program is initiated, which provides grants and fish management expertise to communities so that they can build or improve public lakes.

## 1981

- Bald eagle restoration efforts begin.

## 1982

- Commission adopts the Operation Game Thief program from the Conservation Federation.
- Otter restoration program begins.
- First Missouri ruffed grouse season in modern times is announced.
- First nature center (Burr Oak Woods) opens.

## 1984

- Wallop-Breaux Act passes, amending the Sport Fish Restoration Program.
- The one-tenth of one-percent Parks and Soils sales tax passed by a 2/3 vote of the Missouri people. The tax serves as the primary funding source for the Department of Natural Resource's state park system and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts' soil erosion prevention programs.

## 1985

- 1985 Farm Bill includes the first conservation provision (CRP).
- Steel shot for waterfowl hunting becomes mandatory in selected areas, as required by a federal ruling from a suit brought about by the National Wildlife Federation.

## 1986

- Quail population enhancement program begins.
- "Stash Your Trash," an anti-littering campaign, is piloted on four Ozark streams as a 50th anniversary project.
- First episode of "Missouri Outdoors" airs in the Jefferson City/Columbia region.
- MDC Safety Officer is shot and killed while preparing to inspect a Department shooting range. Shooter thought he was a conservation agent.
- 10pm-4am closure on department areas is established.

## 1987

- MDC celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Missouri Conservation Commission.

## 1988

- Missouri voters renew the Parks and Soils sales tax.
- Hunter Education becomes required for those born after January 1, 1967.
- 800,000 gallons of oil pours into the Gasconade River near Vienna due to a pipeline break. MDC, with DNR, begins extensive sampling and monitoring of the area.

## 1989

- North American Wetlands Conservation Act passes, providing matching grants to carry out wetlands conservation projects for the benefit of wildlife.
- Stream Team Program begins.

- “Missouri Outdoors” airs statewide.

## 1990

- US Congress passes North American Waterfowl Conservation Act.
- Streams for the Future program begins.
- Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council is formed. Is later renamed to Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC).
- Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project (MOFEP) begins.

## 1991

- Construction of wetland at Eagle Bluffs CA begins, one of 12 major wetland developments. This project later wins the Association of Conservation Engineer’s First Place - Award of Excellence.
- Missouri Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) is formed.
- Operation Forest Arson hotline is started.

## 1992

- A 15” minimum length limit and reduced daily creel limit for small-mouth bass on selected Ozark streams is implemented.

## 1993

- The Great Flood of ‘93: the first 500 year flood of the decade in the Upper Mississippi Valley, causes an estimated \$1.25 billion in damage, not including agricultural crops. MDC launches a program to purchase 20,000 acres of flood plain to absorb future floodwaters and minimize loss of life and property.

## 1994

- First stocking of pallid sturgeon.

## 1995

- A boat ramp facility design for wheelchair users, which has served as a national model, is developed.
- The second 500 year flood of the decade in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Water levels in some areas reaches higher than the ‘93 flood.

## 1996

- MDC automates distribution of hunting and fishing permits with the POS system. This marks the first completely automated real time system for sport hunting and fishing permits in the country.

- Missouri voters renew the Parks and Soils sales tax.
- River otter trapping season is reinstated.
- MDC Web site debuts.
- Statewide gypsy moth monitoring begins.

## 1997

- For the first time, a Director is selected from outside the Department.
- Field employees are no longer required to wear the formal green and grey Department uniform; instead, they are to simply wear the Department logo on their shirt.
- Regional boundaries within the state are standardized between Department divisions, and Regional Coordination Teams are established.
- MDC and NRCS join together in the Openlands Initiative in order to better implement the conservation programs in the new Farm Bill.
- New Missouri statute gives conservation agents full arrest authority.
- Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF) forms.

## 1998

- Jerry P. Combs Lake makes national news - Due to sand deposits underground, the lake will not hold water. It was successfully repaired.
- Missouri river floodplains acquired by MDC and USFWS following '93 and '95 flood are thought to have prevented flooding in Jefferson City.
- The statewide Forest Inventory and Analysis begins. This is the first cycle of a continuous five-year inventory.

## 1999

- Steam Stewardship Trust Fund is created to mitigate the loss of Missouri's stream resources. Funds are administered by MCHF.
- MDC enters into an interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, which recognizes out-of-state violations of wildlife laws and license suspensions as if they occurred in their own state.
- Forest Health Monitoring program is implemented- 20% of state forests will be inventoried yearly for use in management decisions.
- Invasive zebra mussels are discovered in Meramec River. This is the first Missouri sighting.
- Missouri Supreme Court rules that conservation sales tax funds are exempt from the 1980 Hancock Amendment, which dictates that excess state funds must be refunded. MDC gains \$2 million in funds.



## 2000

- Private Land Services Division is formed using funds made available through the Hancock Amendment ruling.
- Grow Native! program is initiated.
- Conservation license plates are released.
- Urban deer management policy is adopted.
- Teaming with Wildlife, a coalition of 4,500 organizations, convinces Congress to designate funds to assist state conservation programs.

## 2001

- A 10-year sturgeon monitoring project on Missouri and Mississippi rivers begins.

## 2002

- 2-year chronic wasting disease surveillance effort begins. This is one of the largest short-term MDC projects to date; over 400 employees involved. No evidence of CWD was ever found in Missouri's deer population.
- First Fish program is started to recognize anglers for their first ever catches.
- No MOre Trash! campaign is launched in partnership with the Department of Transportation.
- The grotto sculpin, a new cave fish species, is discovered and later used as an indicator species of underground water quality.

## 2003

- Internet sales of hunting and fishing permits begin.
- Resource Science Division forms, integrating all of the Department's research and monitoring functions.
- The Natural History Section is dissolved, and duties are split into Wildlife and Resource Science Divisions.
- A plan for Missouri trout fishing is approved.

## 2004

- Investigation of Iowa permit databases identifies over 200 persons who claimed residency in both states when buying permits.
- 4-point antler restriction is put into effect in 29 counties to shift the deer harvest toward more antlerless deer.

## 2005

- Transportation Equity Act passes, amending the Sport Fish Restoration Program.
- Experimental 5-year handfishing season begins as part of the Catfish Harvest Evaluation Project.
- The upper Taum Sauk reservoir of the AmerenUE hydroelectric facility fails, releasing a billion gallons of water in 12 minutes into Johnson's Shut-Ins and Taum Sauk State Parks.
- Missouri's Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy is approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) concept is activated.
- Telecheck system is implemented. In-person check stations no longer available.
- MDC joins MDA and USFS in emerald ash borer monitoring.

## 2006

- MDC joins DNR and project consultants in mitigating the damage from the Taum Sauk reservoir breach.
- Waterfowl hunting reservations are limited to Missouri residents on wetland conservation areas.
- A five-year plan to increase the prairie chicken population to 3,000 is approved.
- One millionth hunter education student graduates.

## 2007

- Commission ends 5-year catfish handfishing season after only 2 years, after research indicated that nests left unprotected had a 0% survival rate. Public outcry from "noodlers" followed.
- Initiated first National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI) project in Missouri at Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo.
- Missouri statute adds conservation agent vehicles to the emergency vehicle list.
- Severe ice storm caused significant destruction of trees in southern Missouri.
- Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council is formed.

## 2008

- The two-year Apprentice Hunter Authorization permit becomes available, allowing new hunters (16 years and older) to hunt with a mentor for two years before being required to take hunter education.

For a more detailed account of the history of the Department up to 1987, read **The First 50 Years** by James Keefe. [www.mdc.mo.gov/about/50\\_yrs](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/about/50_yrs)



# Hunter Education

- MDC began offering Hunter Safety courses in 1957.
- Became mandatory in 1988.
- Is required for anyone born after 1/1/1967 who wants to purchase a firearms hunting permit, AND anyone who goes afield to assist a youth who hunts with a youth permit.
- Must be at least 11 years old to attend.
- 10 hour course.
- Hunter Education works: Training has helped reduce Missouri's hunting accident rate by 70 percent.
- Over one million hunter education students have graduated as of 2007.
- 1,126 hunter education classes were taught in 2007.



Upcoming courses can be searched for on the public Web:  
[www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/huntered](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/huntered)



# Information Resources

## Annual Report

The Department creates an abbreviated annual report for the public, and a full internal annual report. In recent years, the abbreviated report of the previous fiscal year's budgets has been published in January issues of the *Missouri Conservationist*.

## Missouri Conservationist Magazine

The current issue, and a search engine to find previous articles, can be found here: [www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag/) Archived issues can be found here: [www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag/archive](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag/archive)

## Missouri Department of Conservation Web Site

The Department's Web site is its primary link to provide the public with online information. It contains a wealth of information for Missourians to learn about their fish, forest, and wildlife resources.  
[www.missouriconservation.org](http://www.missouriconservation.org) or [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov)

## Policy Manuals

There are three departmental manuals that contain policy decisions approved by the Conservation Commission and that provide statewide direction to employees. The current manuals include the Area and Resources Management Policy Manual, the Human Resources Policy Manual, and the Business Policy Manual.

## Secretary of State Report

The Missouri Secretary of State publishes a yearly report called the “Official Manual of the State of Missouri” (informally, the “Blue Book”) that documents information about state government, history, and culture of Missouri. Each section of state government has a section that describes their organization, duties, and accomplishments. The online version of the current year’s report can be found here at the Secretary of State’s Web site: [www.sos.mo.gov/BlueBook](http://www.sos.mo.gov/BlueBook). MDC’s summary can be found under the Executive Departments chapter. The names of all full-time state employees, their agencies, job titles, and salaries can be found in the Personnel chapter.

## The Wildlife Code

*The Wildlife Code of Missouri* refers to Title 10 of the *Code of State Regulations*, which are the regulations set forth by the Conservation Commission. *The Code of State Regulations* is published by the Missouri Secretary of State. Printed versions of *The Wildlife Code* are available at permit vendors statewide and is available online. [www.mdc.mo.gov/9473](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/9473) (Redirects to the Secretary of State site.) For more information on how these regulations are developed, see the Regulations chapter.



# Lands Owned by the Department

## Current Lands Managed

- The Missouri Department of Conservation administers more than 988,000 acres located throughout the state.
- As of the end of fiscal year 2007, MDC
  - owned 785,589.54 acres
  - managed 202,423.78 acres that are leased from other entities (e.g., Corps of Engineers, The Nature Conservancy, etc.)
  - More information about lands that MDC owns, leases, or manages for public use is available on the Department's online Conservation Atlas. Area information can be found by searching by area name, county, or region. [www.mdc.mo.gov/atlas](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/atlas)

## Land Acquisition

- Land is only acquired from those willing to sell or donate it.
- About 80% of the overall land that the Department owns was purchased, and 20% was donated.
- The Conservation Commission makes the decision to purchase or accept donated land, with recommendations from the Director, the Realty Committee, the Division Chief, and the Regional Coordination Team that oversees where the land is located.
- Special consideration is given to acquire land that achieves specific goals set forth by the Department, such as protecting the habitat of a threatened species or increasing recreation opportunity in underserved regions.
- The amount of land acquired varies greatly from year to year, depending on budget allotments and available opportunities to acquire appropriate tracts.
- In fiscal year 2007, 1,575 acres of land were acquired in 17 counties; of those, about 440 acres were donated. Acquisitions included land that provides habitat for rare and endangered species, land

that will allow for additional restoration of riparian zones and swamp habitat, and a tract containing more than a mile of coldwater stream frontage falling under the Plan for Missouri Trout Fishing.

- The Department uses an independent appraiser to determine the value of the land to be purchased, and this appraisal is the basis for determining the purchase price.
- Staff contacted by persons interested in selling or donating land to MDC must fill out and submit a Land Offer Information Form or a Land Donation Information Form.

## Land Sale

- MDC disposes of tracts of land that are not suitable for public use such as parcels that are inaccessible because they are surrounded by private land.
- Some land is sold or traded in an attempt to even up boundaries on existing areas, which reduces costs and makes for more efficient management.
- In fiscal year 2007, only 4 tracts were sold totaling less than 150 acres.
- Land sales are not a method of generating income for the agency; however, land sold by the Department usually brings the market value.
- When land is made available for purchase, local sale bills and classified ads are posted.

## Missouri Natural Areas

- Areas are designated by the Missouri Natural Areas Committee (made up of representatives from the Department of Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources, the Mark Twain National Forest, and the Ozark National Scenic Riverways).





- As of 2007, 181 areas were designated as Natural Areas in Missouri, encompassing 63,039 acres.
- In 2007, 89 areas (32,607 acres) were on MDC lands, and MDC managed an additional 22 natural areas (2,697 acres).
- Natural areas are biological communities or geological sites that preserve and are managed to perpetuate the natural character, diversity, and ecological processes of Missouri's native landscapes.
- Areas registered with the program can be owned by state or federal agencies, organizations, and individuals through cooperative agreements with these owners.
- Natural areas are permanently protected and managed for the purpose of preserving their natural qualities.
- Program began in 1970, and by 1976, there were 49 areas with about 6,000 acres.
- Locations and brief descriptions of Missouri's Natural Areas are on the online Natural Areas Directory: [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/natareas/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/natareas/)

## Names and Name Changes

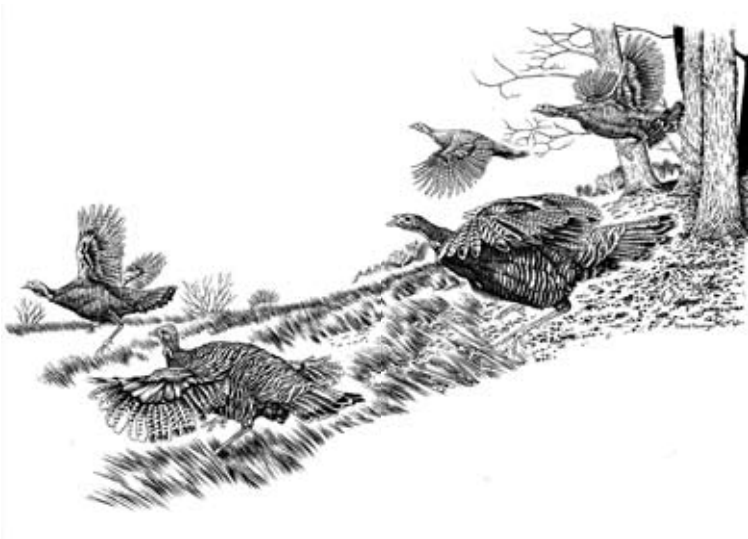
Areas are named after natural features, local and historic places or events, or persons of historic importance. Names with local historic significance are preferred. Donated areas have the option to be named for the person honored or as recommended by the donor.

Until a few years ago, Department areas were listed by a variety of labels, including conservation areas, wildlife areas and state forests. To simplify things, the agency decided to refer to all such properties as "conservation areas." The exception is public fishing accesses, each of which is now called an "access." Some areas, mostly gift acquisitions, continue to have special wording in their names because of deed stipulations (for example, the Kessler Memorial Wildlife Area). When entire areas are designated as a natural area by the Natural Areas Committee, they are called "natural areas" (for example, Allred Lake Natural Area). Signs on some areas still use the old names, but are being replaced as they become unserviceable.

## Overview of Land Managed

In fiscal year 2007, actively managed habitat included:

- 21,752 acres of grassland/prairie
- 41,259 acres of marsh/wetlands
- 580 acres of glades
- 45,000 acres of forest
- 9,250 acres of savannas
- 15,977 acres of old field
- creation of 158 miles of edge
- planting of more than 192,000 trees
- 66,879 acres of crop land management for wildlife and timber harvest
- 89 natural areas (32,607 acres) on MDC lands
- 22 natural areas (2,697 acres) owned by other entities



## Logo of the Department

- The familiar triangle logo with the oak leaf, bass, and raccoon, represents the forestry, fisheries, and wildlife programs of the Department.
- The triangle logo is the brand of the Missouri Department of Conservation. It identifies staff and the Department with the Constitutional responsibility for Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife.
- Use of the Department's logo must be clean and legible. Logo images that do not include the trademark symbol, TM, should not be used.
- Use the version of the logo with the slogan whenever possible.
- Use the version without the slogan when the design includes a logo size so small that the slogan would be unreadable.
- The Department's logo can be used by others outside the Department after contacting Outreach and Education Division.
- The current triangle logo was not adopted until 1970. Charles Schwartz, MDC biologist and illustrator from 1940 to 1981, designed the current triangle logo and presented it to the Conservation Commission for approval.
- The previous Department logo- a hawthorn blossom, honoring the state flower- had been in use since 1942.



*Previous Department Logo*



*Serving nature and you™*

*Current Department Logo*

## News Releases

- MDC maintains an online archive of MDC news releases on the public Web page. It can be found at this address:  
[www.mdc.mo.gov/news](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/news)  
Persons interested in receiving these news releases in a weekly email can sign up at this page.
- A roster of MDC media contacts can be found on the MDC Web site. [www.mdc.mo.gov/documents/news/media\\_contacts.pdf](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/documents/news/media_contacts.pdf)



## Partners

The Department works with many partners to achieve its goals for conservation in Missouri. These partners include state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, local governments, businesses, schools and universities, and citizen conservationists.

Two partners of particular importance are:

### Conservation Federation of Missouri

The Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) is a nonprofit organization that is made up of sportsmen and citizen conservationists.

CFM organized in 1935 with the purpose of taking conservation out of the hands of politicians and into the hands of the public.

The purpose of their first meeting was to draft an original constitutional amendment that called for the creation of the Conservation Commission and the Department of Conservation.

Other notable achievements include successfully lobbying to prevent changes from being made to the original constitutional amendment in 1945, and leading the efforts to pass the conservation sales tax that established funding for the Design for Conservation strategic plan in 1976.

CFM initiated the Operation Game Thief and Operation Forest Arson programs in an effort to protect Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife resources. CFM also co-sponsors the Share the Harvest and Stream Team programs.

The mission of CFM is to educate, inspire, and empower individuals and organizations to take action to conserve and to support the sustainable harvest and wise use of fish, wildlife, forest, and other natural resources, to help protect our planet's environment, and to nourish an ethic of stewardship and enjoyment of our natural world. CFM regularly cooperates with national and state governments as well as scientific research societies to achieve its conservation goals. [www.confedmo.org](http://www.confedmo.org)





## Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation

The purpose of the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF) is to raise funds and to provide resources for the efforts of MDC, and to take a leading role in ensuring both the protection of Missouri's conservation heritage and the provision of outdoor opportunities for future generations. The Foundation strives to meet the increasing demand for areas of outdoor activities and natural community restoration projects by partnering with local efforts. MCHF has several endowments and trust accounts that are used for these efforts. MCHF was founded as a nonprofit organization in 1997, and since then has funded more than \$7 million for conservation projects in Missouri.

The most visible MCHF fundraising effort is the Missouri Conservation Heritage License Plate program. A yearly donation of \$25 to MCHF allows you to have a deer, bluebird, or morel mushroom conservation license plate on your automobile. [www.missouriconservationheritagefoundation.org](http://www.missouriconservationheritagefoundation.org)



# Peer Comparisons

## Duties of Other Agencies in Missouri

### **Farm Service Agency**

*(A division of the US Department of Agriculture)*

- Administers and manages farm commodity, crop insurance, credit, environmental, and emergency assistance programs for farmers and ranchers
- Related to conservation, FSA administers conservation programs such as CRP, the Federal Government's largest environmental improvement program; CREP; and EQIP
- [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### **Missouri Department of Agriculture**

- State Fair coordination
- Provides business counseling, information and training to Missouri's farmers and agribusinesses
- Provides expertise in quality assurance, food safety, environmental issues, and disease control programs with respect to Missouri's livestock industry
- Quality control of milk and grain; enforcement of storage and dealer standards
- Oversees administration of pesticides and of plant pest control laws
- Research, development and promotion of Missouri grapes, juices and wine
- [www.mda.mo.gov](http://www.mda.mo.gov)

## **Missouri Department of Natural Resources**

- Missouri State Parks system
- Soil and water conservation education and financial incentives
- Air, water, and ground pollution monitoring and enforcement
- Mineral, oil and gas resources; geologic studies; land survey
- Representative of Missouri Natural Areas Committee
- [www.dnr.mo.gov](http://www.dnr.mo.gov)

## **Missouri State Water Patrol**

*(A division of the Missouri Department of Public Safety)*

- Regulates waterway navigation markers
- Patrols state recreational waters and enforces state law
- Administration of water safety education program to schools
- Boat safety inspection stations
- Conducts dive operations to recover drowning or boat accident victims
- Coordinated assistance with other police agencies
- Rescue and recovery assistance during flooding conditions
- [www.mswp.dps.mo.gov](http://www.mswp.dps.mo.gov)

## **National Park Service**

- National Parks system, including the Ozark National Scenic Riverway
- Natural community management within parks
- Natural and historical interpretive programs for the public
- Representative of Missouri Natural Areas Committee
- [www.nps.gov/state/mo](http://www.nps.gov/state/mo)



## **Natural Resource Conservation Service**

*(A division of the US Department of Agriculture)*

- Financial assistance for conservation activities through the US Farm Bill
- Conservation technical assistance in planning and implementing conservation systems
- Technical expertise in animal husbandry, clean water, ecological sciences, engineering, resource economics, and social sciences
- [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

## **University of Missouri Extension**

- Supplies tools to enhance agricultural profitability, strengthen communities, and protect Missouri's natural resources
- Provides families with information on health, nutrition, parenting, aging, personal finance, housing, consumer action, etc.
- Business and workforce development
- Community development
- 4-H program
- <http://extension.missouri.edu>

## **US Army Corps of Engineers**

*(Civil works program)*

- Supports navigation by maintaining and improving channels
- Flood protection and flood damage reduction
- Stream and wetland ecosystem restoration
- Wetlands and waterways regulation and permitting
- Maintains public recreation sites- lakes, rivers, and beaches
- [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)

## **US Fish and Wildlife Service**

- Management of fish and wildlife habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge systems
- Enforcement of federal wildlife laws such as the Endangered Species Act
- Management of migratory bird populations
- Administration of federal grant programs that enhance fish and wildlife on private land
- Administration of the federal excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to states
- [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

## **US Forest Service**

*(A division of the US Department of Agriculture)*

- Protection and management of natural resources on National Forest System lands
- Research in forestry, rangeland management, and forest resource utilization
- Community assistance and cooperation with state and local governments, forest industries, and private landowners
- International assistance in formulating policy and coordinating U.S. support for the protection and sound management of the world's forest resources
- Representative of Missouri Natural Areas Committee

# Surrounding States

## Hunting and Fishing

More people hunt and fish in Missouri than any of the surrounding states.

(Data from 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

State	# Hunters (rank)	# Anglers (rank)
Arkansas	354,127 (2nd)	880,000 (4th)
Illinois	315,964 (4th)	951,000 (3rd)
Iowa	251,386 (7th)	478,000 (8th)
Kansas	271,175 (6th)	489,000 (7th)
Kentucky	291,384 (5th)	862,000 (5th)
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>608,210 (1st)</b>	<b>1,282,000 (1st)</b>
Nebraska	118,256 (9th)	227,000 (9th)
Oklahoma	250,590 (8th)	697,000 (6th)
Tennessee	328,937 (3rd)	1,085,000 (2nd)

## Permit Costs

Following are price comparisons of some of the more common permits available in Missouri and surrounding states. All permits are listed in the order of price from highest to lowest (2006 permit prices).

### Resident Hunting and Fishing Combination:

Arkansas.....	N/A
Iowa .....	N/A
Nebraska.....	\$44.00
Oklahoma.....	\$42.00
Kansas.....	\$38.15
Tennessee.....	\$28.00
Illinois .....	\$24.75
Kentucky .....	\$22.50
<b>Missouri.....</b>	<b>\$19.00</b>

**Resident Fishing:**

*Tennessee N/A*  
*(Only has combination)*

Oklahoma .....	\$25.00
Kansas .....	\$20.15
Nebraska .....	\$20.00
Iowa .....	\$17.50
Kentucky .....	\$15.00
Illinois .....	\$13.00
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>
Arkansas .....	\$10.50

**Resident Small Game:**

*Tennessee N/A*  
*(Only has combination)*

Iowa .....	\$26.00
Oklahoma .....	\$25.00
Nebraska .....	\$24.00
Kansas .....	\$20.15
Kentucky .....	\$15.00
Illinois .....	\$13.00
Arkansas .....	\$10.50
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

**Resident Spring Turkey:**

Tennessee .....	\$56.00
Iowa .....	\$49.00
Kansas .....	\$42.30
Kentucky .....	\$35.00
Oklahoma .....	\$35.00
Nebraska .....	\$33.00
Illinois .....	\$28.00
Arkansas .....	\$25.00
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>

**Resident Fall Turkey:**

Tennessee .....	\$56.00
Iowa .....	\$49.00
Kansas .....	\$42.30
Oklahoma .....	\$35.00
Nebraska .....	\$33.00
Kentucky .....	\$30.00
Illinois .....	\$28.00
Arkansas .....	\$25.00
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>

**Resident Firearm Deer:**

Tennessee .....	\$56.00
Iowa .....	\$53.00
Kansas .....	\$52.30
Oklahoma .....	\$45.00
Kentucky .....	\$40.00
Nebraska .....	\$40.00
Illinois .....	\$28.00
Arkansas .....	\$25.00
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>

**NonResident Fishing:**

Nebraska .....	\$50.00
Kansas .....	\$42.15
Oklahoma .....	\$42.00
Tennessee .....	\$41.00
Arkansas .....	\$40.00
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
Iowa .....	\$39.50
Kentucky .....	\$35.00
Illinois .....	\$24.50

**NonResident Small Game:**

Oklahoma .....	\$142.00
Kentucky .....	\$115.00
Tennessee .....	\$91.00
Iowa .....	\$89.00
Arkansas .....	\$80.00
Nebraska .....	\$80.00
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
Kansas .....	\$72.15
Illinois .....	\$56.25

**NonResident Spring Turkey:**

Tennessee .....	\$251.00
Arkansas .....	\$225.00
Iowa .....	\$189.50
Illinois .....	\$181.25
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
Kentucky .....	\$165.00
Oklahoma .....	\$152.00
Kansas .....	\$104.30
Nebraska .....	\$98.00

**NonResident Fall Turkey:**

Iowa .....	N/A
Tennessee .....	\$251.00
Arkansas .....	\$225.00
Illinois .....	\$181.25
Kentucky .....	\$165.00
Oklahoma .....	\$152.00
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$105.00</b>
Kansas .....	\$104.30
Nebraska .....	\$93.00

**NonResident Firearm Deer:**

Iowa .....	\$412.00
Kansas .....	\$394.30
Illinois .....	\$321.25
Tennessee .....	\$251.00
Arkansas .....	\$225.00
Oklahoma .....	\$206.00
Nebraska .....	\$190.00
<b>Missouri .....</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
Kentucky .....	\$165.00

# Permits

## Permit Facts

- Hunting and fishing permits accounted for approximately 17% of the Department of Conservation's annual revenue in the 2007 fiscal year. Total revenue collected from permits that year was \$29,368,352.
- Permit prices have not kept pace with inflation over the last 5 years.
- Approximately 16% of all permits are sold to nonresidents.
- Non-Department permit vendors retain 5% of the selling price, and receive \$0.50 for each no-cost landowner permit. Of the \$29 million collected, \$1,598,719 was retained by the permit vendors.
- As of June 1, 2007 there were 1,338 non-Department permit vendors in the state.

## Permit Sales in Missouri in 2006

Permit Type	Number Sold	Dollar Value of Sales
Heritage Card	26,281	\$52,562
Resident Hunting and Fishing	143,201	\$2,720,469
Fishing	808,647	\$10,126,197
Small Game Hunting	137,601	\$1,455,305
Turkey Hunting	124,965	\$3,330,257
Youth Deer & Turkey Hunting	33,711	\$573,087
Managed Deer Hunt	6,178	\$111,261
Firearm Deer Hunting	547,512	\$9,148,611
Archer Hunting	133,427	\$2,733,759
Furbearer Hunt & Trap	5,317	\$74,825
Replacement	30,040	\$60,080
Total Lifetime	855	\$110,615
<b>Grand Total - All Permits</b>	<b>1,997,735</b>	<b>\$30,497,028</b>

<b>Permit Vendor Type</b>	<b>Percent of sales in 2006</b>
Chain Stores (Wal-Mart, Kmart, etc.)	50.59%
Quick Shops	14.35%
Sporting Goods Stores	9.17%
Other (includes MDC offices, internet, phone sales)	5.14%
Bait and Tackle Shops	4.43%
Grocery Stores	2.62%
Variety Stores	2.50%
Concessionaires	2.33%
Liquor Stores	2.14%
Department Areas (Sold by MDC employees)	2.04%
Hardware Stores	1.87%
Resorts	1.72%
Marinas	0.84%
Department Stores	0.26%

## Purchasing Permits

- Annual hunting and fishing permits can be purchased December 1 of the previous year, except for spring turkey and deer permits, which can be purchased March 1 and July 1 of the current year, respectively.
- All resident and nonresident hunting and fishing permit prices can be found on the public Web site. [www.mdc.mo.gov/regs/permits.htm](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/regs/permits.htm)

- Heritage Cards store registration information on a magnetic strip, making permit purchases faster.
  - Not a permit
  - Not required for permit purchase
  - Can be purchased for \$2 through any permit vendor
  - Also issued to Hunter Education graduates- shows certification.
  - Holders get 15% off MDC retail merchandise and 15% off, up to \$20, of seedling purchases from the MDC nursery.
- Permits can be purchased at MDC offices, local independent permit vendors, by phone at (800) 392-4115, or via the Web site. [www.wildlifelicense.com/mo](http://www.wildlifelicense.com/mo) There is a \$2 surcharge for all permit purchases made via the phone or Web site.
- Special use permits for personal use- camping, collecting, trapping, field trials, etc. should be requested from the area manager. The contact information for the area manager can be found in the area's information, which is available by searching the name of the area on the online Conservation Atlas [www.mdc.mo.gov/atlas](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/atlas) or from the regional service center.
- Special permits for commercial hunting, fishing, collecting, taxidermists, breeders and others are also available on the public Web site. <http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/applications/MDCLibrary/MDCLibrary2.aspx?NodeID=236>
- To obtain a permit to collect a Species of Conservation Concern, contact Stephanie Liebi at (573) 751-4115 x3574.

# Public Involvement/Awareness Programs



Marketing programs help to inform Missourians about conservation issues, and to promote conservation at a statewide and grassroots level. To market the Department's role in Missouri, MDC has used the slogan "Serving Nature and You," with its triangle logo since 2005. The slogan is included with the logo whenever it will appear large enough to read it.

Below are just some of the other marketing programs the Department is involved in.

## Grow Native!

Grow Native! is a statewide alliance of conservationists and nursery owners that encourages home gardeners, developers, and communities to grow plants that are compatible with local plant communities and benefit wildlife. The program aims to increase the availability of reasonably priced seed, plants, shrubs and trees suited to Missouri's growing conditions. Grow Native! also sponsors public programs about gardening with native plants at locations throughout the state. The program is administered by MDC and the Missouri Department of Agriculture. [www.grownative.org](http://www.grownative.org)



## No MOre Trash!



No MOre Trash! is a litter awareness campaign. Experience has shown that keeping the litter-prevention message in the public eye is essential to addressing litter problems. The campaign is co-sponsored by MDC and the Missouri Department of Transportation. [www.mdc.mo.gov/nomoretrash](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/nomoretrash)



## Operation Forest Arson

Operation Forest Arson is an anti-arson program, working to stop the setting of wildfires. The program offers a reliable method for citizens to anonymously report arson. Rewards for information range from \$200 to \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of an arsonist. There is a minimum reward of \$100 for information leading to the apprehension of a violator. The program is administered by MDC, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and the US Forest Service, who sponsor a toll-free hotline and offer reward incentives and public education. To report forest arson, dial toll-free 1-800-392-1111, or call your local conservation agent.



## Operation Game Thief



Operation Game Thief is an anti-poaching program, working to stop the illegal taking of fish and wildlife. The goal of the program is to put professional poachers out of business and to make the occasional violators think twice about poaching. The program is administered by MDC and the Conservation Federation of Missouri, who sponsor a toll-free hotline and offer reward

incentives and public education. To report poaching, dial toll-free 1-800-392-1111, or call your local conservation agent.

## Share the Harvest

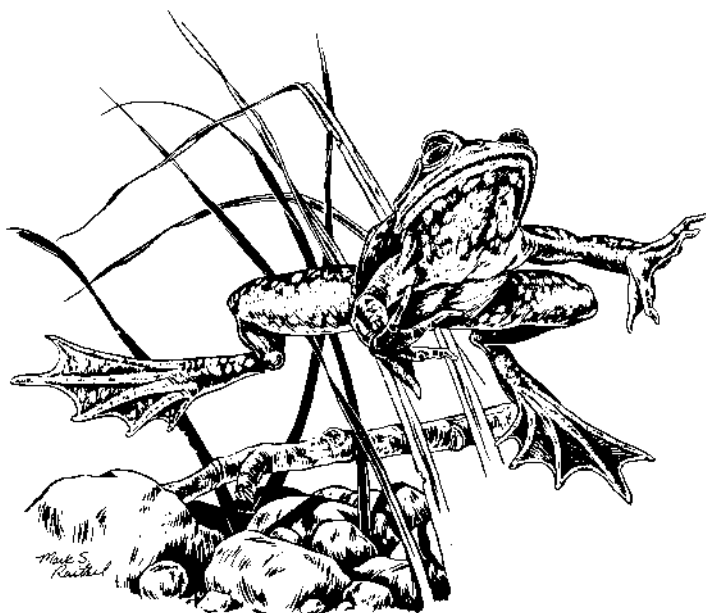
Share the Harvest is a program that provides an easy way for hunters to donate venison to Missourians in need of red meat. All hunters have to do is bring a deer to a local processor for processing. Hunters have the option of donating a few pounds or the whole deer. The processing fee is reduced if an entire deer is donated, and this cost is reimbursed to the processor by the program sponsors.

Volunteers deliver the meat to nonprofit charitable organizations, who distribute it to ensure that it goes to where it serves the greatest need. The program is sponsored by MDC, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, Bass Pro Shops, and Shelter Insurance. [www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/deer/share](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/deer/share)



## Stash Your Trash

Stash Your Trash is a stream conservation effort to help keep litter out of Missouri's streams. Free red mesh trash bags are distributed to river recreationists, mostly through canoe-rental operations, which make it easy for floaters to keep trash out of streams. The program is sponsored by MDC and the Stream Team program.



# References and Reading List

## Books

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- Missouri Department of Conservation. 2005. Conservation Economics. DVD Video Presentation. 10 min. 41 sec.
- Missouri Department of Conservation. 2001. The Spirit of Conservation. DVD Video Presentation. 27 min.

## Web Resources

- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Blog- Conservation News. c2007- Available from: <http://fishwildlife.blogspot.com>.
- Domke, Lorna. Blog- Fresh Afield. c2007- Available from: <http://blogs.mdc.mo.gov>. Missouri Department of Conservation.
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# Regulations

## Overview

- Regulations are established to best manage Missouri's valuable plant and animal communities, to provide equal opportunity for Missourians to share and enjoy these resources, and to promote public safety. Three factors- biological impact, social concerns, and enforceability- come into play as a regulation develops.
- The Department's Regulations Committee makes recommendations to the Conservation Commission about modifying the regulations in *The Wildlife Code*. Their recommendations are based on information gathered from Missourians who have suggestions or complaints about wildlife management or regulations, hunting and fishing surveys, opinion polls, and public meetings across the state. The committee then seeks the expert opinion of the Department's research biologists and managers. Based on this information, the committee makes its recommendations to the Conservation Commission.
- Most regulation changes go into effect March 1 each year. Information and permits for spring turkey season become available on March 1, and for deer season on July 1.
- The Regulations Committee meets about 10 times a year to discuss current regulations. Members of the public, as well as MDC staff, are encouraged to make recommendations and attend the Regulations Committee meetings.
- To be placed on the meeting agenda, send a written request at least 10 working days before the meeting date to:

David W. Erickson  
Regulations Committee Chair  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
FAX: (573) 751-4467

- The schedule and agendas of regulations committee meetings can be found online. [www.mdc.mo.gov/regs/agenda](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/regs/agenda)

## Process for Developing Regulations

There are three factors that are considered when developing recommendations- biological impact, social concerns, and enforceability. The detailed steps to creating or modifying a regulation are:

1. A division, region, or member of the public brings a recommendation to the Regulations Committee for consideration.
2. The committee approves, denies, or returns the recommendation to staff for further study (including instructions to engage, or further involve, stakeholders).
3. An approved recommendation is submitted to the Conservation Commission for their approval. The Commission may also vote to amend, veto, or table the recommendation.
4. A recommendation approved by the Conservation Commission is filed with the Secretary of State as a proposed rule. These can be viewed here: [www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/moreg/moreg.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/moreg/moreg.asp) Under Missouri constitutional amendment, seasons and limits do not require filing.
5. Once filed, there is a 30-day public comment period. Comments are forwarded to the Regulations Committee who will revisit the proposed rule.
6. If no comments are received, after the 30-day comment period, the proposed rule is filed again with the Secretary of State as an Order of Rulemaking.
7. The proposed rule becomes effective either 30 days after it is published in the *State Code of Regulations*, or at a future specified date.
8. In rare circumstances, some rules may be filed as emergency rules and become effective 10 days after filing with the Secretary of State.

## The Wildlife Code

- *The Wildlife Code of Missouri* refers to Title 10 of the *Code of State Regulations*, which are the regulations set forth by the Conservation Commission.
- *The Wildlife Code* is a permissive code meaning that rather than a list of "thou shalt nots," it is simplified by telling outdoor recreationists what they may do. Hunters, trappers, and anglers may take or

attempt to take only those animals and fish permitted by *The Wildlife Code* and only by methods, and only at the times and under the circumstances mentioned in the *Code*. These regulations are necessary to protect and manage Missouri's abundant game and furbearer populations and to make access to Missouri hunting and trapping as fair and as simple as possible.

- *The Wildlife Code of Missouri*, as part of the *Code of State Regulations*, is published by the Missouri Secretary of State. Printed versions are available at permit vendors statewide and is available online as part of the *Code of State Regulations* (Web address redirects to the Secretary of State site): [www.mdc.mo.gov/9473](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/9473)
- The document is divided into 13 chapters:
  - 1 - *Wildlife Code*: Organization
  - 2 - Forest Crop Lands
  - 3 - Monetary Values of Fish and Wildlife
  - 4 - General Provisions
  - 5 - Permits
  - 6 - Sport Fishing: Seasons, Methods, Limits
  - 7 - Hunting: Seasons, Methods, Limits
  - 8 - Trapping: Seasons, Methods
  - 9 - Confined Wildlife: Privileges, Permits, Standards
  - 10 - Commercial Permits: Seasons, Methods, Limits
  - 11 - Special Regulations for Department Areas
  - 12 - Special Regulations for Areas Owned by Other Entities
  - 20 - Definitions

There are no chapters 13-19; These chapters are reserved for future regulations, if needed.

Regulations and maps of specific Conservation Areas are available from Conservation Department regional offices, and the online Conservation Atlas. [www.mdc.mo.gov/atlas](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/atlas)

# Research

Scientific evaluations provide the credible information and accountability needed by MDC decision makers to address a host of natural resource and public use issues. Priority is given to studies where little is known about the subject areas but which have the potential to make the greatest impact on management, public use, and policy.

The Department has ongoing activities in six major areas:

- Population Management- determination of management and restoration techniques balanced with desires of users and the public
- Ecological Processes- determination of the processes that effect habitat conditions and how to effectively mimic these processes
- Management Evaluation- evaluation of management and policy actions to determine if goals are met and determine if change is needed
- Human Dimensions- gathering of public opinions and expectations for use in making resource policy and management judgments
- Large-scale planning- coordination of planning and program efforts within and outside MDC, and ensuring they are based on sound science and include evaluative measures
- Information transfer- ensuring that data collected is timely, accurate, and arranged in a useful format

In Fiscal Year 2007, there were 62 activities to obtain public input, which included public information surveys, focus groups and public meetings, involving 88,939 members of the public.

# Traditions

## State Fair

To support the strong ties of the agricultural community to conservation, MDC has had a permanent pavilion at the Missouri State Fair since 1934.

- In 1986, the state fair pavilion was renovated to create a 100-seat auditorium to expand the educational programs available to the public.
- The famed “Old Blue” catfish has been on display since 1938. In truth, the first “Old Blue” ended its 33-year career at the State Fair in 1971. A second catfish, “Old Blue II,” replaced the first one for another 24 years. “Old Blue III” began its career in 1995.

## Arbor Day

In honor of Arbor Day, MDC gives a seedling tree to every 4<sup>th</sup> grade student in Missouri (of those classes that choose to sign up). Every type of school is eligible. In 2008, 120,000 seedlings were distributed to over 4,000 classes.

## Murals

The story of conservation in Missouri is told pictorially by the murals of Charles W. Schwartz which grace the foyer of the Department headquarters in Jefferson City. The murals trace the history of fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state from the pristine conditions of 1700; through the era of European settlement and exploitation; to conservation efforts up to the passage of the Conservation Sales Tax Amendment in 1976. Began in 1965, the mural series was dedicated on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MDC in 1987.

The story of conservation told through Schwartz’s murals is continued in the three murals of Mark Raithel in the Conservation Commission meeting room in the Department headquarters. Painted in 1998, the murals depict conservation efforts and advancements in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.



# Volunteer Programs

Volunteering is just one way that Missourians work to improve fish, forest, wildlife, and outdoor recreation opportunities in their communities. These are just some of the volunteer programs that the Department is involved in.

## Adopt-A-Trail Program



The Adopt-A-Trail Program provides opportunities for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians to assist conservation area staff by monitoring, maintaining and enhancing trails and trailheads. Volunteers remove sticks, rocks, and other debris from trails, prune small limbs from trail corridors,

maintain waterbars and other trail structures, and pick up litter. Since the program's inception in 2003, volunteers have contributed 5,475 hours on their adopted trails. In 2008, 48 conservation area trails were under active adoption. [www.mdc.mo.gov/trails/adopt.htm](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/trails/adopt.htm)

## Hunter Education Instructors

Over 2,400 volunteer Hunter Education Instructors assist MDC instructors to teach hunter education classes that enable state residents to become safe, responsible hunters. The training has helped reduce Missouri's hunting accident rate by 70 percent.

The 10-hour training course teaches how firearms operate, safe hunting practices, hunting traditions and ethics, and hunter responsibilities, and is followed by a written examination.

Persons interested in volunteering to teach hunter education can contact their local outdoor skills specialist. <http://mdc.mo.gov/teacher/contacts>



## Missouri Forestkeepers



The Missouri Forestkeepers Network is a volunteer forest monitoring program that launched in 1996. In addition to monitoring the health of forests in their community, volunteers also attend workshops and participate in forest management and special events. In 2006 alone, volunteers across Missouri recorded the statuses of

over 5,400 trees for use in researching the health of Missouri's forests. The program is administered by the MDC in partnership with Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, a not-for-profit organization. [www.forestkeepers.org](http://www.forestkeepers.org)

## Missouri Master Naturalists

Missouri Master Naturalist is an education and volunteer program. Participants attend a 40-hour training on conservation concepts, 8 hours of advanced training, and donate 40 hours of volunteer service that supports conservation efforts and natural resource education in their local communities in order to attain certification. In the first 4 years of the program, 446 people have completed the initial training and over 50% have become certified Master Naturalists. Volunteers have logged over 26,700 hours of service and have participated in over 6,000 hours of advanced training. The program is a partnership between MDC and University of Missouri Extension. [www.monaturalist.org](http://www.monaturalist.org)



## Stream Teams



Missouri Stream Team is a working partnership of citizens who are concerned about Missouri Streams. Volunteers attend trainings, participate in hands-on stream projects, and advocate on behalf of their adopted streams. In 2007, there were more than 3,400 teams, and volunteers spent 183,041 hours working on their adopted streams. Since the program began in 1989, volunteers have spent more than a million hours protecting and improving Missouri streams. The program is a partnership between MDC, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org)

## Volunteer Naturalists

The Volunteer Naturalist program is designed to reach people on a personal level with a conservation message. Some duties may include patrolling trails, answering questions, staffing the visitor information desk, presenting interpretive programs or assisting with projects that require specific expertise or talents. Age limitations, hours of training required, and minimum number of hours spent working may vary depending on the program. Volunteer opportunities are available at many Department facilities. A list of places to volunteer can be found on the public Web site: [www.mdc.mo.gov/volunteer/places.htm](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/volunteer/places.htm)

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June 2008

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, nationality, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 1-800-735-2966 (TTY), or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.